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MILLENNIAL.

BY ERN E. HENFORD.

Of faith I question what shall be?
Of life I question what has been;
I pray you, hear and answer me—
Shall hopes, departed, come again?

Will life uplift its morning star,
Somewhere, some-time, to shine for me?
I strain my eyes, above, afar,
And long the millennial dawn to see!

Oh, thousand years of perfect peace!
Ye may be far and far away;
But in your gladness pain shall cease,
And life put every grief away.

A thousand times the earth will move
In sunward cycles of God's plan,
And man will live and man will love,
And be in fellowship with man.

A "golden age" the seers foretold,
Who glanced down the advancing years;
Oh, for the faith they held of old,
To cry—"The golden future nears!"

I can not look so far away,
Or else the mists of doubt and sin
Have fallen, night-like, round the day,
Thus narrowing all my vision in.

Oh, thousand years, when love shall be
The universal law well kept,
Dawns grandly, for we wait to see
The time for which the prophets wept.

The Phantom Princess: OR, Ned Hazel, the Boy Trapper.

BY CAPT. J. F. C. ADAMS,

Nephew of the Celebrated Old Grizzly Adams, the
Bear-tamer of the Rocky Mountains.

CHAPTER VII.

THE PEACE-MAKER.

THE tidings that a company of trappers belonging to the North-west Fur Company was close at hand, was indeed exciting; but when it was learned that they numbered forty men, and that they had fired at the two hunters, the instant they recognized them, the news was indeed alarming.

There was no doubting the disposition of these men; the rivalry at the time of which I am speaking was so great between the agents of these two great companies, who both claimed Oregon Territory as their own trapping-ground, that more than one collision had occurred in that country, and there was always imminent danger when two of their parties encountered.

The two hunters stated that they had brought down a buffalo, that, badly wounded as it was, managed to run to the bank of the river, where it fell dead. They hurried forward, and were on the point of applying their knives to the animal, when a shout caused them to look up, and they saw three large canoes, scarcely a hundred yards distant.

It required but a moment for them to see that they were Nor'-westers, who showed they were equally quick in identifying them, by sending several shots after them, accompanying the same with insulting epithets.

The men instantly took to their heels, and here they were.

"Did you fire at them?" asked Mackintosh. "No; we left in rather too much of a hurry."

"I am glad of that; I don't wish to have a fight with them, and they can't say we have given them the provocation."

"We've give 'em the biggest kind," said Nick Whiffles, "and if you ain't mighty keener there's going to be the condemned difficulty you ever heard tell on. Turn the heads of the canoes 'other way!"

This was uttered in such a peremptory tone, that a number of men sprung forward and obeyed it.

"Ef they find out we've been down to the village and got the peltries they're after," remarked Nick, in explanation to Mackintosh, "they'll be in fur a difficulty sure as you're born. The idee is to make things look as though we war goin' down instead of up stream."

There was barely time to explain this ruse to the men, when the three canoes made their appearance. Catching sight of the men on shore, a volume of shouts arose, that made Mackintosh tremble for the result.

"Let me do all the talking," said he to his men, "and avoid anything that will provoke them."

The boats headed for the landing, and, in a few seconds, the three ranged themselves alongside the shore and rested on their oars. In the three boats were forty men—mostly Americans, although here and there a sprinkling of other nationalities could be discovered. They were a tough, courageous-looking set of men, dangerous to any sort of foe.

The leader, or director of the expedition, was a long-whiskered Missourian, who sat in the stern of one of the boats smoking a large meerschaum pipe.

"Good-day, to you," said Mackintosh, advancing to the edge of the water, and nodding pleasantly to this individual, whose reply came in a gruff voice.

"What the deuce are you doing in Oregon?"

"Hunting for furs."

"I should think it's about time you infernal Hudson Bay men learned that this country belongs to the universal Yankee nation."

"That question is not yet settled," replied Mackintosh; "we trapped in Oregon a hundred years before the North-west Fur Company was formed."

"Just because we let you—that's the only reason."

"There are treaties in existence giving us the privilege."

"Let's see them!" was the characteristic



Turning at once, he fairly gasped at the vision he saw.

demand of the Missourian, starting up in indignation.

"I am not in the habit of carrying treaties around in my breeches pocket. I have seen the treaty; but your government and mine are now negotiating about this very thing, and until a decision is reached, I claim that my right is as good as yours to hunt and trap in all of Oregon."

"And I'll make affidavit it isn't; haven't you heard the news?"

"No; what is it?"

"The treaty has been concluded; Oregon is ceded to us, with the understanding that, at the end of ten years, all of British America, Russian America, and Greenland are to be annexed to the United States, and I, Jake Belgrade, am to be appointed territorial Governor."

If Mr. Belgrade, of Missouri, had not drawn it quite so strong, possibly he might have succeeded in making some impression upon the matter-of-fact Scotchman, but the latter merely smiled and replied:

"I haven't received official notice of it yet; when I do, it will be obeyed."

"We have," was the remark of the Missourian, "and we've come to Oregon for two things—one is to hunt furs, and the other to clear all you infernal Hudson Bay men out. What do you say, boys?"

"Ay! ay!" was the deep-mouthed response of the men, eager for any thing that promised the excitement of an affray.

"So if you chaps don't want to get eternally nipped out, you'd better git up and git, in about three shakes of a lamb's tail."

"I am a subject of Her Majesty and I take no orders from any one except from her officers, my superiors."

"We've flaxed you Britishers more than once, and we can do it again."

Mackintosh fancied that he had his temper under full control, but he was not proof against the exasperating manner of the Missourian, and, if one thing was certain at this point, it was that, unless some third party interfered, there would be a bloody and desperate encounter between the men, within the next ten minutes.

Nick Whiffles plainly saw this, and stepped forward at the critical moment.

"Mack, if you'll allow," said he, addressing the Scotchman, "I'll put in a word or two."

At this juncture, the North-west men recognized the old hunter and all cheered him. Every one knew him either personally or by reputation, and they respected and admired him.

Mackintosh comprehended the delicate situation, and, with a graceful bow, stepped back and made way for his friend.

Nick, with his long rifle in one hand, with Calamity at his side, and with his huge grin on his face, looked serenely toward the Nor'-westers.

"What do you chaps want?"

"We want them Britishers to vamoose the ranche," replied Belgrade.

"Wal, ain't they doin' it, as fast as they can?"

"That don't look much like it," said the Missourian, pointing to the canoes; "your boats are headed down-stream; that ain't the way to get out of Oregon."

"Ain't you willin' that they should go down the river, and get some peltries of the Blackfeet?"

"Not much; that's just what we're after, and we intend to manage that business ourselves."

"S'pose, then, I kin persuade 'em to turn about and go up-stream, there'll be no difficulty?"

"Being it's you that has asked it, Nick, there won't be—but, we come into Oregon with our minds made up to shoot every Hudson Bay thief we found in the place; this thing has gone too far already, and we cracked away at 'em, the minute we got sight of a couple of them up the river a little while ago."

"Keep easy there," said Nick, "till I can speak a word or two to Mack here."

Whiffles turned about and began conversing with Mackintosh in a low, earnest voice, occasionally indulging in quite excited gestures, while the members of both parties watched the two men with no little interest.

The interview lasted but a short time, when Nick turned to Belgrade.

"It goes rather ag'in' the grain to knuckle under in this 'ere style—if I was the man there'd be a condemned difficulty afore I'd pull down my flag."

"What does he say?" inquired the Missourian.

"That's what he says," was the reply, as the hunter pointed to a half-dozen men who were busting themselves in turning the canoes so as to head up-stream. "Mack, however, says he reserves the right to protest ag'in' this proceeding."

"Protest and be hanged," replied Belgrade. "Oregon is a part of the United States, and no infernal red-coat has any right on it, without first asking permission of Uncle Sam, and if this thing isn't stopped, there's going to be war. I'm going to stir up Congress when I get back, and get 'em to notify the Hudson Bay Company that if they don't stop fooling and keep off our land, we'll bombard London, and capture her and her whole caboodle of a family and hold 'em for hostages. I reckon that'll bring 'em to their senses."

And with this grandiloquent flourish, Mr. Belgrade gave the signal for his men to resume their canoes down-stream; but they had taken scarcely a dozen strokes, when he gave his parting shot.

"We'll watch for you, and if you undertake to steal by, we'll shoot every one of you, in spite of Nick Whiffles."

The Hudson Bay men preserved their solemnity of mien, until their rivals were beyond sight, when they indulged in some rather broad smiles at their success in outwitting them.

"When they get down to the village and find that we've been there," said Mackintosh, "I wonder if any of the company will be able to do justice to their feelings."

"I s'pose the part I play'd come as near lying as any thing could," said Nick, "but I didn't see any other way of getting you out of the condemned difficulty."

CHAPTER VIII.

THE BOY TRAPPER AND THE DAWNING OF LOVE.

THE Hudson Bay men resumed their journey up the Elk river, paddling with scarcely any intermission until nightfall, when, as usual, they hauled up for the purpose of encamping.

Around the camp-fire passed story and jest until a late hour, when all, excepting the usual sentinels, turned in for the night, and at an early hour the brigade was under way again.

At noon the river made a sweeping bend toward the north, which, followed up a few miles further, would lead them into unmistakable British territory, where there was no danger of molestation from any members of the great rival fur company.

At this point, Nick Whiffles and Ned Hazel left the company. They had made the nearest point to his home, and henceforth would only draw further away from it. The parting was pleasant, and marked by good feeling upon both sides, but there was nothing of a pathetic character in it, as they expected to meet again in a few weeks at the furthest.

Nick and the boy stood on the shore, waving farewells to them, until around one of the many turns in the river they disappeared from view, when the two friends turned about, and plunging into the wilderness, set out for home.

The point at which they had left Shagbark, the horse, was several miles distant and out of their course; so Nick turned the duty over to Calamity.

"You know where we left him, pup," said he, addressing the canine; "go, fetch him back."

Ned Hazel himself did not understand this message any better than did the remarkable dog, who, with a pleased wag of his tail galloped away in the direction of the faithful animal.

"He'll be at the cabin with him as soon as we," said the trapper, as the two turned about and resumed their journey through the woods.

Although the spring had fairly opened, the trapping season was not finished. The fur-bearing animals were still covered with heavy, valuable hides, which were eagerly sought after by the trappers. Nick Whiffles was still engaged in the business, and, on starting for Fort William, he had left the matter in charge of Ned, who, having followed him down the river, made him the more anxious to return and ascertain his luck.

"There were good signs of beaver where I set them last two trips," remarked Nick, to the boy, as they walked along; "and if I ain't mistook most mighty, there will be some fur found in 'em, when we git back."

They were yet a mile or two from their cabin, when they turned off to the left, and finally reached a creek that came down from a chain of mountains some miles away.

Along this water the experienced eye of the trapper saw many signs of beavers, to which he directed the attention of the boy walking beside him. Where the indications were not readily perceived, he took as much care to explain them to him as though he were a paid instructor for teaching him the "profession" of trapping.

"Now, lad," said the old trapper, as he looked down benignly upon the boy, "you've spent a good number of years a-trampin' with me, and I reckon you've learned a powerful sight more nor I knowed at your age; so I'll let you go up this creek, and look arter the upper trap, while I tend to the others."

So they separated. Nick made the round of his traps, and was delighted at his good fortune, for in all, excepting one, he found a prize. The beavers all cried piteously when they saw him coming, but he speedily ended their sufferings, and slinging them over his shoulder, leisurely made his way to his cabin.

The afternoon was about half gone when he reached the building that, during all his wanderings, he had always looked back to as his home. True, he was often absent for weeks and months, sometimes away up among the frozen regions along James' Bay, and then far down toward the head-waters of the Red River of the North; but always, when he spoke of returning home, this was the place he meant.

It was constructed with some little skill. It had been built where two immense rocks made a right-angle, so that two of its sides were impenetrable stone; the rest was made of logs and bark, with a sloping roof to shed the rain, and an opening, with an immense bear-skin, to serve as a door, which, when necessary, could be closed by a rock.

Within this lived Nick Whiffles and Ned Hazel. They had spent many happy years here, and hoped to spend many more.

Near by was a rough but secure shelter for Shagbark, where, when he chose, he could seek refuge from the storm. Calamity, as a matter of course, claimed the cabin as his head-quarters.

The house was not very attractive from the outside, but a good deal of comfort had been found there, not by Nick alone, but by many wanderers, both white and red, through this great wilderness of the North-west.

Having slain and skinned his beavers, Nick set about preparing supper for himself and Ned from the tails of the animals. These, when carefully cooked, afforded a delicious and nourishing food, and are highly prized by the trappers, who spend so much of their lives in these distant regions.

Calamity and Shagbark returned in the course of an hour. Both looked sleek and happy, and the tough, long-haired pony showed no little delight at being petted and caressed by his master. He had enjoyed a good play-spell, and was given liberty to continue it indefinitely, as there was no telling when his owner would start on his travels again.

The meat cooking, Nick Whiffles took down his long-barreled rifle, and seating himself by the door, began to take it apart and clean it, and leaving him thus occupied, we will see what has become of Ned Hazel.

The lad went cheerily along, humming a merry tune, and feeling as joyous as a child does, who is growing rapidly and in the enjoyment of fine health.

Now and then he lost sight of the creek as he was compelled to leave it to find better walking; but, of course, he followed its general direction, as he knew that the trap he was seeking was on its bank. On his way he passed what had once been a large beaver-dam—but it had been abandoned several years before by these sagacious animals, and as it now appeared, it looked somewhat like the ruins of some old town or village.

Passing a short distance beyond this, Ned reached the trap for which he was searching. A glance only was needed to show that it had caught a beaver, and that the animal had been released within a few minutes!

"That's strange!" exclaimed Ned, as he stood looking at the trap; "somebody has interfered with that. If Nick was here, he would hunt around for signs, and I guess I may as well undertake it, too."

A moccasin-print was speedily discovered in the soft earth, but it was of such delicate beauty as to show that no Indian warrior had made it.

"That has been done by some girl," added the boy, in greater astonishment than ever. "She has been here very lately."

"And she is here now, too."

Ned Hazel started as he heard these words uttered in a clear, musical voice, at his very elbow. Turning at once, he fairly gasped at the vision he saw.

A girl, somewhat younger than himself, but with a complexion as clear and pearly-tinted as the sea-shell, and features of wonderful beauty, stood before him. Her hair, of rich auburn color, hung down her shoulders, and her dress was purely Indian in its character; but there was no mistaking her for one of that people. Her features and appearance were too decidedly Caucasian to admit any such impression.

She stood looking at the lad with an innocent, inquiring expression, and he stood gazing at her in silent wonderment.

According to the eternal fitness of things, the girl was the first to speak.

"I let the beaver go, because it was suffering so much that I pitied it; you are not angry, are you?"

"Oh! no—no," stammered Ned, not a lit-

the embarrassed, "I wouldn't care if you let all the heavens be the country loose."

"I wouldn't do that, because all the beavers ain't caught," replied the girl, with a laugh; "but it cried just like you would, if a bear should catch you."

"How do you know I would cry?" demanded Ned, feeling a boyish resistance to being considered such a child as all that.

"If a bear should catch me, I would turn about and fight him."

"Not if he had you fast so that you couldn't move hand or foot," persisted the young miss; "this poor beaver was hurt, too; it almost made me cry to see it."

Ned felt as though he would cry, too, if it would be any satisfaction to this young lady; but, as it was, he would much prefer to be considered a man in her presence; so he straightened himself up and looked as tall as possible, as he continued:

"You don't know how you startled me when you spoke."

"Yes I do; for I saw you jump, and it made me laugh. You ain't afraid of me, are you?"

"You don't look as though you would hurt anybody."

"What is your name?"

"Ned Hazel."

"That is a pretty name; I suppose they called you that, because your eyes are such a pretty hazel color. Do you want to know my name?"

"I do, indeed," replied the lad, blushing to his eyes."

"It is Miona, and I live among the Indians."

"All alone?"

"Why, no, of course not; haven't you ever seen my mother? She and I dress in white, and sometimes I go with her in her canoe at night."

"What?" exclaimed Ned Hazel, "are you the daughter of the Phantom Princess?"

"I don't know who you mean by that, but I am the daughter of my mother, and I promised to return to her; so, good-by, Ned Hazel."

"Good-by—you—angel!" stammered the blushing Ned, as the little fairy tripped away.

CHAPTER IX.

THE SONG OF THE SIREN.

YOUNG Ned Hazel stood for a few minutes gazing at the point in the wood where the wonderful girl, Miona, had vanished.

Then, yielding to a strange impulse, he dashed headlong after her, not knowing really why he did so. The glimmering of a new emotion was in his heart, and he felt impelled by a desire to see and speak to her again. He was just of that age when the delight of young love was the sweetest, and the romantic, joyful feeling seemed to take entire possession of him.

And then, she was the daughter of the wonderful Phantom Princess about whom he had heard so much and so often, and who was enveloped in such a strange mystery!

But, rapidly as he moved, he was too slow to overtake the girl, who flitted like a fawn through the wood. Reaching the edge of Elk river, he saw nothing of her. She had disappeared entirely as did her mother a few nights before, when pursued by Mackintosh and his trappers.

For fully half an hour he stood on the shore, gazing wistfully up and down-stream, but in vain, and, with a sigh, he gave up the search as fruitless.

"Perhaps I shall see her again," he concluded; "at any rate I'll set the trap, and if it catches a beaver, she will come and let him out, and I will get another chance to see and talk with her."

The afternoon was well gone, and he knew that Nick would be expecting him, so he concluded to take another look up and down the river, and then to make all haste home.

The glance which he cast up-stream showed him a small canoe descending, and in it was seated a single person managing the paddle with a deliberation which proved that whatever might be his destination, he was in no great hurry to reach it.

"Some trapper going to alone," concluded Ned, as he still lingered and watched.

Yielding to a feeling of caution, which his experience in the woods had taught him, he stepped back, so as to be invisible to the stranger himself. It was barely possible that he might be an enemy, and his prudence could not come amiss under any circumstances.

As the figure came closer and closer, something in its appearance struck Ned as familiar. He scanned it more closely and suddenly understood matters.

It was Bandman!

"What could he be doing here?"

"I suppose he is going on some errand for Mackintosh," concluded Ned, as he turned on his heel and started homeward.

He did not forget to pause and reset the trap, which had been disturbed by Miona, with the fervent wish that she would make it another visit, just about the time he would reach the ground.

And then, as he resumed his homeward walk, another conviction made itself known. While talking with the girl, something in her face seemed familiar. It was only the faintest, most shadowy resemblance to something that he had met somewhere before. Whether it was away back in that dim period preceding his own advent into this solitude, or whether it had visited him in his dreams, he could not say; but he clung to the belief that it was no fancy of his; and, speculating and unable to solve what it meant, he finally reached home, where old Nick was just beginning to wonder at his prolonged delay.

But what meant this canoe voyage of Hugh Bandman?

My reader has probably suspected what it meant.

A few hours after the separation of Nick Whiffles from the Hudson Bay trappers, a party of friendly Indians had been encountered, who had a few furs to sell. A halt was made, and a barter effected.

Among the purchases effected, was a small canoe, which was turned over to Hugh Bandman, with the cautious remark that he might use it whenever he chose.

He chose to do so at once.

"I may as well begin this business with-out any further delay," said he, as he stepped within and took the paddle.

A few words were interchanged, and then the parties separated. The Indians of whom the boat had been purchased remained on shore, so that Bandman descended the stream again, without any company at all.

He saw nothing of Ned Hazel, and passed directly by him, without suspecting his presence or proximity.

"Shall I be able to solve this mystery?"

asked the lonely trapper, as he thoughtfully plied his paddle. "Can it be that Mackintosh suspects? No—impossible!"

He was pale, and his lips compressed, as though agitated by some strong emotion, and now and then he gave utterance to his troubled thoughts.

"It may be—the date—there are several things—and, no, such a thing was never heard of in the wildest romance—but I shall never return from this expedition until I have learned—"

His! what was that?

His heart gave a great bound, and he held the paddle motionless in his hand and scarcely breathed.

While he leaned forward, he saw in the distance, gliding close to shore, what had met his vision twice before. It was the Phantom Princess in her white canoe!

The boat was so white, that at first glimpse, it seemed like some strange bird, hunting its way back again to its home, deep in the primeval wilderness; but, as he looked, he could discern the form of the princess herself seated in it.

Her daughter, dressed in her gaudily-colored dress, was reclining in the bow, but she was so concealed by the intervening figure of her mother that the trapper saw nothing of her.

"It is she—it is she!" muttered Bandman, "and she must see me. I will follow her."

He paddled more vigorously, in the hope that she would permit him to approach or overtake her; but he was not long in learning that it was her wish that their relative distance should be maintained for the present at least; so he ceased his efforts and followed her more leisurely.

Before he was aware, night was upon him, and he discovered that he was following her by moonlight—a bright, clear moonlight, that served almost as well as the day, inasmuch as she avoided the shadow of the shore, and kept as near the middle of the stream as possible.

Bandman scarcely removed his eyes from her; his great fear was that she might take it into her head to whisk as suddenly out of sight as she did when pursued by the trappers.

He found that, with the coming of night, she permitted him to approach considerably closer to her canoe. Indeed, scarcely more than a hundred yards separated them, and had she chose, they could have easily conversed in an ordinary tone.

Bandman made several attempts to lessen the distance, but he saw that it rested entirely with her, and she governed her progress entirely by his.

A couple of hours were passed thus—although the trapper was not conscious of the lapse of time—when he became conscious that the Phantom Princess was singing.

Singing, it is true, in a low, faint voice—but in tones of irrepressible sweetness.

She was uttering no words, but rather humming some plaintive air, that came to the ears like the sad, touching strains of the wind-harp.

The trapper ceased rowing, and bent his head to listen. It came to his ears, like the tones that visit us in our dreams of angels; and, as he sat motionless, he felt then more than ever before, that there must be something supernatural about this wonderful being, whom he was following with such a resolution.

He looked up to see whether she was still paddling away from him. No; she, too, was resting on her oars, and both were floating with the current. He was drifting away, more in a dream than in his waking senses.

The voice never rose above that faint, tremulous, touchingly sweet tone, that seemed to penetrate his very being.

Hark!

Why does he gasp and start? Surely he has heard that strain before! Yes; long years ago it had melted his heart with tenderness, and now it fairly drove him wild.

"I will overtake you! I can stand this no longer!"

And seizing his oar, he rows with a furious energy such as he has never known before.

And is there no hand raised to stay him? Ah! no; and he is surely rushing upon his doom, lulled thither by the song of the siren.

(To be continued—commenced in No. 48.)

ORPHAN NELL.

The Orange-Girl:

OR, THE LOST HEIR OF THE LIVINGSTONES.

A ROMANCE OF CITY LIFE.

BY AGILE PENNE.

CHAPTER XV.

THE MISSING WILL.

JOE and I arrived at the depot just in time to catch the train. The cars were full of people, and seats were scarce. Joe, however, managed to get one on ahead while I found one at the rear end of the car, beside an old gentleman with iron-gray hair, and a face bronzed almost as dark as an Indian's.

I have neglected to mention that, before leaving the hotel, after supper, I resumed the disguise that I fled from New York in, namely, the yellow, curly wig and mustache, and again trimmed my eyebrows down, for it must not be forgotten that the sentence of five years at Sing Sing, which my friend Richard had been kind enough to procure me, by his false charge of forgery, was still hanging over me; and that I was liable to be arrested and sent to serve my term. Of course, if this should happen, it would entirely block my game.

True, I had hopes of a pardon, for I had received a letter in Denver City, from Peters, the detective, telling me that, aided by some influential political friends, he had applied for my pardon and hoped to obtain it from the Governor. I knew that Peters had a great deal of influence with certain parties who controlled the wires by which certain political puppets danced; and politics have a great deal to do sometimes with the pardon of criminals, in some States of our great and glorious Union. Besides, the crime which I was accused of committing, and for which I had been convicted, was quite a trivial one in the opinion of the world. Picking a pocket or robbing a house, are horrible offenses against the law, but forging a friend's name for a few thousand or robbing the bank of which you are the trusted servant and supposed guardian, are pleasantly denominated "financial irregularities," and if the skillful "operator" happens to sometimes be unskillful enough to let himself be detected in his little "pleasantries," the world exclaims, "A very weak and fool-

ish young man—to allow himself to be caught."

After the train had been under way a short time, I fell into conversation with the elderly gentleman, with the iron-gray hair and bronzed face, who occupied the seat with me. Of course, as was natural, our first remarks had reference to the weather; from that we glided into politics—the elections being near at hand. Soon I found, to my utter astonishment, that the stranger was totally ignorant regarding the present politics of New York State—a fact which he explained by stating that he had been traveling in India for the past five years. I soon gathered from his conversation—for he spoke freely and without reserve—that he was what the French would call a "savant;" in truth, was a very learned man, about certain things. He had traveled in the East a great deal, and, as he informed me, spoke the Hindoo tongue like a native. In order to penetrate to certain places, in India, which he had wished to reach, he had found it necessary to assume the native garb and character of a Hindoo, which his bronzed complexion and perfect knowledge of their language easily enabled him to do.

I was quite interested in his story of his travels for he spoke in an easy, off-hand manner, without any particular desire to make himself the hero of his tale, although he was so, in reality. I soon discovered the charm of his manner; he loved the subject he was speaking of. Although born in Albany and reared there, remaining in that city, as he told me, until he was twenty-one, nearly all the rest of his life had been spent in the Orient.

"I commenced the study of the Hindoo tongue when I was a lad," he said. "I do not know how it was, but the study seemed to possess a peculiar charm for me. When I attained the age of twenty-one, my father died and left me quite a fortune; my mother had died when I was an infant. I had no brothers or sisters; my nearest relatives were my cousins, who lived in Buffalo. After my father's death, I stopped with them some little time, when the idea took possession of me to go to India, and in person see the country, and there, from the natives, thoroughly study the tongue. No sooner had I thought of this than I set about it. So, sir, when I was about twenty-two years old, I went to India and have remained there most of the time since; that is, when I say that, I except a visit that I made home about five years ago. It's strange, sir, but I have been called home from India twice by death. The first time, one of my cousins died, and, as he had some little property, he chose to make a will and appoint me executor, knowing at the same time that I was in the wilds of Hindostan, and for all he knew I might be making a meal for some hungry tiger in one of his jungles, or strangled by some malicious 'thug' as an offering to great Brahma."

"The letter, sir, informing me of the death of my cousin, was two years in reaching me, for I was on an expedition up the 'hill country,' and the letter lay in Calcutta until I returned."

"Well, that was a long time," I said; "I should have thought the heirs here would have become impatient."

"I rather think they did," responded the "savant," with a dry chuckle. "But, here again, the reason for my return now is that one of my early friends has seen fit to trust his affairs in my hands. Not a relative this time, mind, but only an old friend. He and I were school-fellows together, at Albany, and when he was married in Buffalo, I promised to be present, but unfortunately I forgot the direction and missed the minister's house. That was way back in '48. I didn't see him again until about five years ago, when I returned from India, and, passing through New York, en route for Buffalo, I called upon him. He was then one of the leading men of New York. I only made a short visit, don't think I stopped over half an hour, and I remember that he asked particularly what my post-office address was; and, when I spoke about settling up this will business in Buffalo, and what a trouble it was, he laughed, and asked—should I happen to outlive him, would I take charge of his will? Of course, I joked of the thing, I said I would, that I would be delighted. Now, what do you think, sir?" and the old man laid the fore-finger of one hand impressively on the palm of the other. "That man remembered this conversation of five years ago, and when he got ready to make his will, which was about a year ago, after he had made it, he sent it to my address at Buffalo, with directions to keep it there till I should return home, and, with the will, he sent a letter to be forwarded to me, wherever I might be. That letter was just about a year in reaching me, for it arrived in Calcutta shortly after I had started on an expedition for the head-waters of the Ganges. When I returned, about a year afterward, I found it there waiting me. I read it through, carefully. He didn't give any reason for intrusting the will to my care—only reminded me of my promise, and begged of me, by the memory of our old friendship, to keep that promise, and obscurely hinted that, upon my faithfully carrying out his wishes as expressed in the will, depended the righting of a foul wrong. All this mind you, was quite mysterious; but, of course, there was no need of my returning to the States until the man was dead, which event, he said in his letter, I must not be surprised to hear of at any time, as his health had been failing."

"Well, now, as this letter had been waiting for me nearly a year, and no other had come notifying me of his death—for of course his son would have written in the event of his father's death, knowing that I had the will—I concluded that his health had improved. But, judge of my astonishment, when, a few days after this, I happened to take up an old New York Herald, and read there an account of the death of Anson Livingstone!"

"Livingstone!" I cried, with a start of surprise. Luckily the "savant" happened to look out of the window, just then, and did not notice my astonishment.

"Yes," he replied, "you have probably heard of him; he was an old New Yorker. I've got his will now, here in my breast-pocket."

Fortune had again favored me! Here was the man with the missing will!

"Ah, indeed?" I said, more for the sake of saying something, than any thing else.

"Yes, sir; it's rather a strange story, for the moment I saw the notice of the death of my friend, I started for home, instantly. On arriving in New York, I wrote to Mr. Richard Livingstone, the son of my old friend—told him that I had his father's will—that I would proceed to Buffalo, get it and return to the city and see him on the subject. Then I pushed on instantly for Buffalo. I had a

little business there to arrange, for one of my cousins, which I saw would detain me a week; so I wrote to Mr. Livingstone and told him I would be in New York on Wednesday next—that's to-morrow—and that I should like to meet him at the depot. Well, I received an answer at once. I gathered from his letter that he knew that his father had left a will, and what the contents of the will were, but that he had been in the dark as to who had it. Now, that seemed very strange to me, for I should have certainly thought that the father would have told the son all about it."

Fortune was putting Livingstone's game right into my hands. I thought I could guess what the plan was, but I determined to learn all I could in regard to it.

"Perhaps the reason that the old man did not confide the secret of the will to his son, was that he did not leave all his property to him, but bestowed the greater part of his wealth elsewhere," I said, throwing this out as a sort of a feeler.

"Oh, no!" responded the "savant," "Richard says expressly, in his letter, that the disposition of his father's property is perfectly satisfactory, both to himself and his sister, Olive."

"Ah! you wrote him, then, in regard to the division made by the will," I said, feeling the way cautiously.

"No, of course not!" he exclaimed; "how could I? The will is securely sealed up, and is not to be opened except in the presence of certain parties whom he names in connection with myself. I wrote as much to Richard."

"I saw Livingstone's 'little game' now. He had determined to get this will into his possession; to do that he must use foul means."

Little did the gray-haired "savant" dream that he had journeyed through the wilds of India, and escaped the jaws of the wild beasts, the sullen noose and knife of the "Thug" assassin, to encounter here, in his own native land, the most terrible danger that he had ever met.

"Will the gentleman you speak of meet you at the depot?" I asked.

"So he said in his letter," he replied. "I sent him a description of my person and appearance; he will not be likely to mistake me," he added, with a laugh.

The past was all clear to me now; when Richard Livingstone showed me the draft of his father's will, he did not believe that the will itself was in existence, and no wonder, for his father had been dead a year, and no one had come forward with the will. All this time it lay in Buffalo, while the letter apprising the "savant" of the fact was waiting in Calcutta for him to return from his expedition. Strange are the ways of fate, and I surely must be a favored son of fortune. Here had I accidentally fallen in with the very man whom, to serve Livingstone's purpose, fate should have kept out of my way. Yet here we were, riding side by side, and he had told me the very thing I ought to know.

Fortune, too, had favored the old "savant," for he was going to meet a terrible danger—one all the more terrible, because it was not looked for, and came at the hands of a supposed friend; but he had Joe and I to watch over him; for I had resolved not to lose sight of him, if I could help it. In thinking the matter over, I came to the conclusion that Livingstone would not take him to his own house, for it was his policy not to excite the old man's suspicions, but to appear anxious to have the will produced. If the "savant" was robbed of the will in the house of Richard, why, the old fellow would naturally think that there was something wrong, but if he lost the will before reaching the house, he could not implicate Richard in the transaction. Livingstone's game, then, was to send him to a hotel, and then have some shrewd fellow "go through him."

I would have liked to have given the "savant" a slight warning, but I could not easily do it without exposing my hand in the "little game" too much; and that, I was afraid, would spoil all.

I thought the situation all over, and I rather congratulated myself upon the favorable look that things wore. In the first place, I had the "sneak of war"—plenty of money; then I had the proofs of the marriage of the mother, and the birth of the child. Then I had the heir himself, in New York, just where I could put my hand upon her; and now, the crowning triumph! I had discovered the man who had the will! Then a sudden thought struck me—was I particularly anxious to have this will produced? Yes; for if the will was destroyed, Salome could only claim one-third of the estate, while Richard and Olive would take the other two-thirds. No! what the deuce was I thinking of? Richard and Olive were both illegitimate children. Their mother's marriage was not legal, for Anson Livingstone's first wife was then living. Therefore they could claim nothing if the will was destroyed, and Salome would take all. Clearly, then, it was for my interest that the will should be destroyed, for that would make Richard Livingstone a beggar.

On we went, in the darkness of the night. After a little more conversation, none of which has a bearing on my story, the gray-haired "savant" went to sleep. I undressed to follow his example, but for a long while was unsuccessful. A certain face, fringed with hair of tawny beauty, and lit by steel-blue orbs, was ever and anon dancing before my eyes. Strange how the two passions, love and hate, were ruling my nature. If I did not think of poor Pat's death, and vengeance upon the assassin, Livingstone, then I thought of Nell, the Orange Girl, and love. Is there nothing in this life but love? Is this the beginning and the end of all? Yes, it is; life is love, and love is life!

Finally, my eyes closed in sleep, but, even in my dreams, the fair round face, with its pure, innocent smile, was always present.

We reached Albany about six in the morning. During the stop there, I had a few minutes' conversation with Joe, and told him all I had discovered. For the better carrying out of my plans, I suggested that, in the depot in New York, we should appear as strangers to each other, but for him to keep a narrow watch upon my movements, and when the time for other action came, I would advise him.

CHAPTER XVI.

A DOUBLE-BANKING OPERATION.

THE train on the Hudson River Railway bearing the savant, William Vanderwilt, so he was called—Joe Sparks and myself, arrived in New York city a few minutes before one o'clock. It was a pleasant day, the sun beaming down warmly, although the air was rather chilly. Mr. Vanderwilt and

myself, after the train had stopped in the depot, left the car. Hardly had we stepped upon the platform, before a young, stoutly-built fellow, dressed in a plain suit of black, came up to Mr. Vanderwilt, and, speaking quite politely, said:

"Is this Mr. Vanderwilt, of Buffalo?"

"Yes, sir," said the savant, in reply.

"Ah, I thought I could not be mistaken, by the description I said the stranger. Allow me to introduce myself; my name is Everett Clark. I have the honor to be Mr. Livingstone's secretary. Mr. Livingstone has been called out of town suddenly, on important business, and requested me to meet you at the depot."

"I tumbled" to this "little game" at once, as a detective might say. This was Livingstone's first move. He did not intend to see Vanderwilt until the said Vanderwilt had been relieved of the important document, the will of his father, Anson, which the gray-haired guest carried in his breast-pocket.

I guessed the movement that this "secretary," Mr. Everett Clark, was to carry out. His business was to relieve Mr. Vanderwilt of the precious will, without exciting his suspicions. This Mr. Clark was probably some shrewd "confidence operator," one of those gentlemen who have a "check to cash," but the bank has just closed; "would Mr. Greenhorn, who has just arrived from the country, lend him a hundred, or two or three hundred, according to the amount of money said Greenhorn happens to have about him, and take the check for security?"

In nine cases out of ten, Mr. Greenhorn is only too happy to oblige such a perfect gentleman as Mr. Oily Gammon, Esq., the gentleman with the check. Mr. Greenhorn lends his city friend all the loose cash he has about him, takes the check, and then Mr. Oily Gammon suddenly remembers that he has an appointment with Peter Cooper, Horace Greeley, Mayor Hall, or some other noted individual, and hurries away, promising, however, to return in an hour or so and redeem the check. Mr. Greenhorn waits patiently; the time expires; the gentleman from the rural "destricks" begins to feel anxious at the non-appearance of his agreeable friend; a peculiar sensation creeps over him; a slight suspicion that perhaps all is not right; but, then, he looks at the bank-check in his hand; "pay to bearer \$500.00," drawn on the First National Bank. That makes him safe anyway, but, as a matter of precaution, he will go to the bank and inquire. He does so, and is somewhat astonished on receiving information that the valuable check is worth simply what it will fetch as waste paper. Mr. Greenhorn's parts for the rural "destricks," by the first conveyance, a sadder but a wiser man; or perhaps he is of a combative nature, and rushes at once to the nearest police station to have the infernal scoundrel arrested; the police clerk in attendance at the station listens to his woeful story, and takes a description of the rogue, which is always particularly indefinite. Mr. Greenhorn now feels satisfied; justice is on the track; he will sit down and wait until the blue-coated Metropolitans bring in the rascal. The gentleman from the rural districts always have an immense idea of the power of the city police; but, the obliging clerk informs him that the police stations are not hotels, and that not only hours but days may elapse before the rogue is caught, and he will take Mr. Greenhorn's address and notify him when his presence is desired to make his charge. Mr. Greenhorn departs, fully satisfied that at last he will have justice. As he goes through the door, the police clerk puts his tongue in his cheek in quite a significant manner and exclaims: "Walker!"

The stout policeman on duty returns the peculiar smile and says, briefly, "Not much!" All of which are supposed to refer to the improbability of Mr. Confidence Operator ever being caught. This is no fancy case that I have been stating, but one that occurs in all our great cities nearly every day. Once in a great while it gets into the police column of the newspaper; but, nearly always, the sufferer, conscious of his own stupidity in being swindled in such an easy manner, holds his tongue and says nothing about it.

This Mr. Clark, from the peculiar, restless look of his light-blue eyes, and the extreme soberness of his "get up"—that is, his dress and general appearance—I set down at once as belonging to that class of people who are said to get their living by their wits—or, in other words, those who prey upon the weakness of their fellow-beings by cunning, not by force.

I knew very well that, two months ago, Livingstone had no secretary, and, as he had no particular business cares to attend to, it was not likely that he had one now. As the police would say, it was a "plant," so I looked around carefully for Mr. Clark's confederates. I was not long in discovering them. Three men stood in a little group by themselves on the platform—three fine specimens of that peculiar class that flourish only in cities, and are known by the general term of "rough"—individuals generally very well known to the police. They were stoutly-built fellows, with hair cut short to what my friend Joe would call a "fighting-crop"; black, bristling mustaches, red faces and small, evil-looking eyes. These fellows were standing near the doorway, watching Mr. Everett Clark and my friend, the savant, very intently. I had an idea, now, what their "little game" was. As Vanderwilt passed through the door they would probably block up the entrance, and, in the little confusion thus occasioned, would pick his pockets; but I had little fear of their getting the will, because he had told me that it was in the breast-pocket of his body-coat, and he had his overcoat tightly buttoned up. Besides, Joe and I would be near by hand, and I didn't intend to let them proceed in their operations uninterrupted. But I thought to myself: I must warn Joe, somehow, and put him on his guard, because I had a fancy that Joe's powerful arm—the terrible "left-duke" of the pugilistic "Spider"—would soon be brought into service. Joe, for a little man, was the most terrible left-handed hitter that I have ever seen.

Of course all these thoughts passed through my mind in a very few minutes. Minutes! Seconds! I should say, for they occurred while Mr. Vanderwilt replied to the secretary's speech.

"When does Mr. Livingstone return?"

"To-morrow, sir, I expect him back. It was quite urgent business that took him away, and he desired me to say to you, that he was extremely sorry that he could not meet you, as agreed upon."

"Oh! business is business, sir, of course. I know that, although I'm not a business man," replied the savant.

"Well, I suppose we might as well go to once to a hotel. I am obliged to take you to a hotel, Mr. Vanderwilt, because, at present, there are repairs being put upon Mr.

Livingstone's house, and all the family are out of town." The "secretary" delivered this in such a nice, easy manner that I was quite charmed with his power of conversation and the easy facility with which he lied. It was truly a capital excuse to prevent Vanderwilt from going to Richard's house. At a hotel, he would be completely at the mercy of the "secretary."

"Ah! I am sorry for that, for I should have liked to have seen Miss Olive," said Vanderwilt.

"Oh! she will return, sir, before you go away. I heard her speak of that particularly. The repairs in fact are all done, and they will have the house in order in a day or two; so that you will only have to stop at the hotel a very short time. By the way, is there any particular hotel that you prefer going to?"

My admiration for Mr. Everett was increased considerably by this adroit-but speech. I knew very well that "Mr. Secretary" had already arranged in his own mind as to what hotel my friend, the savant, should go, and had even probably picked out the room for his victim—the one most convenient for his purpose.

"No," said Vanderwilt, "I have no particular preference; one is as good as another for me."

"Well, I had an idea that, perhaps, you hadn't any decided liking, and so I spoke about a room for you at my place, the Metropolitan Hotel. They had a very nice one right next to mine, so I engaged it, as Mr. Livingstone left particular orders that nothing should be left undone to make you comfortable."

The smooth manners of the tricky agent of Livingstone I saw had made quite a favorable impression upon Vanderwilt; in fact, I must own that the fellow was smart, and if I hadn't been on my guard, he possibly would have deceived me; but I had looked behind the curtain of deceit, and knew something of the wires that made the puppets dance.

"I am really much obliged to Mr. Livingstone," replied Vanderwilt, "I am much obliged to him for this kindness."

"Oh! don't mention it, sir," cried Mr. Everett, quickly. "As a friend of his father, of course, sir, he must feel a high degree of respect for you." It was evident that the "agent" was well posted in the premises, as a lawyer would say. Richard had chosen his man carefully. The Metropolitan Hotel, too—one of the leading hotels of New York city; nothing in that to excite the suspicions of the stranger. And in one of the large New York hotels, what splendid chances to play their "little game" and rob Vanderwilt of the precious will, provided they could not pick his pocket and relieve him of it beforehand! Decidedly, the whole scheme was worthy the clear head of Richard. He was a man of genius, beyond all question, although his only tool in the road that leads to the State's Prison.

"Have you any baggage, sir?" asked the "secretary."

"Yes, a carpet-bag, only; here is the check."

"If you will permit, I'll get it for you and we can take an omnibus right down-town; I detect these close carriages," said Everett.

"Certainly; I shall be much obliged," replied the savant; and away went the secretary with the check. Here was another chance for them; if they couldn't pick his pocket in the street, why they might in the omnibus. I could not but admire the carefully-arranged details of the plan, particularly as Joe and I could upset it all; but I saw I must find a chance to speak to Joe, and warn him.

"Quite an agreeable fellow, this Mr. Clark, don't you think so?" said Vanderwilt.

"Yes, quite so." Then a thought occurred to me, and I turned round and pretended to see Joe for the first time; he was standing on the platform a short distance from us. "Why, Mr. Sparks!" I cried, "how are you?" and rushed over to him and took him by the hand warmly.

"How do you do?" exclaimed Joe, understanding the little movement at once, and taking me by the hand as though I was an old friend that he hadn't seen for years.

"Joe," said I, sinking my voice down low, "have you noticed these three fellows standing over there together and watching Vanderwilt?"

"What—those three 'roughs'?"

"Yes."

"Wal, I have. What of 'em?"

"They'll probably try the lam game as we go through the doorway, and pick Vanderwilt's pocket. Now, I'll take you over and introduce you to Vanderwilt, and just as we get to the door you slip ahead of him and go through first, and if there's any difficulty, why hit out strong!"

"You bet!" was Joe's emphatic response. "If they give me any of their slack, I'll climb on their eyebrows lively."

"All right; keep your eyes open," I replied; then I took him over to Vanderwilt and introduced him to the savant, as Mr. Sparks from Nebraska.

Just then the secretary, Mr. Clark, returned with the savant's carpet-bag.

"I've got it, sir," said he. "I suppose we might as well go now," and then he glanced suspiciously at Joe and myself. Before I had stood behind Vanderwilt, and he hadn't noticed me.

"By the way, Mr. James," said Vanderwilt, turning to me, "are you going to any hotel? If you are, why not come to the Metropolitan with me?"

Now, this was exactly what I wanted; in fact, I was just trying to think of some excuse to "wing it" on the party, and now, here was the opportunity offered! Of course I jumped at the chance.

"I guess I will go to the Metropolitan," I said. Mr. Everett looked disgusted; this was an addition to his party that he had not counted upon.

"Mr. James, Mr. Clark," said Vanderwilt, introducing me, "I, of course, immediately expressed my pleasure, which I could plainly see was not reciprocated on Mr. Clark's part. Then I introduced Joe. It was hard work for Mr. Everett to look pleased. In his heart, I've no doubt, he wished us all to the devil. But, the way was no help for him. Here we were all together, and to separate us would be difficult. I saw that he was thinking over his plan of action. I had an idea that he was not going to try the pickpocket business, as I noticed that his eyes wandered irresolutely over to where his confederates stood. They were, doubtless, waiting for some signal from him. Suddenly he seemed to have decided, for he raised his left hand and stroked his chin carefully. This was, evidently, the signal they had been expecting, for they walked quickly over to the doorway, nearest to us. They did not pass through the doorway, however, but stood on the inside. I saw

that the movement was to be attempted, so I winked a warning at Joe, but his quick eye had also seen the movement of the "roughs," and I noticed that he quietly closed his left hand in readiness for the attack.

"I suppose we may as well go," repeated Mr. Everett.

"Certainly," said Vanderwilt; and we started in the following order: first came the "secretary" carrying the carpet-bag; then Mr. Vanderwilt; then Joe; and then myself.

Just as we got to the doorway, Clark quickened his pace and passed through, leaving a space between him and Vanderwilt that "rough No. 1" instantly stepped forward and occupied. The other two roughs attempted to push in between Vanderwilt and Joe, but were roughly shoved back by Joe, who in the little confusion that this occasioned, changed positions and took Vanderwilt's place, so that when "rough No. 1" in the doorway turned round suddenly and stopped, expecting by this movement to jam Vanderwilt up against the other two roughs in the rear, so that in the confusion they could "go through" his pockets; he encountered Joe, who carried his arms well up, ready for a blow.

"Who're yer pushin'?" sung out Joe, to "rough No. 1," giving him a shove in the breast that forced him half-way through the door space—I, at the same time, being between Vanderwilt and the two roughs in the rear, thus preventing them from operating upon his pockets.

"What did you do that for?" demanded "rough No. 1," turning upon Joe with an oath.

"Fur fun!" responded Joe, coolly, still keeping hands up ready for a guard.

"Fur fun!" cried the rough, making a sudden pass at Joe's head, which would probably have seriously damaged my friend's nose, but for his quick right arm, that threw the blow off to one side, then with a suddenness that can only be compared to the jump of a cat, he drew back his terrible left arm, and, with the whole weight of his muscular body, delivered a terrific blow that took the rough square on the chin, lifted him off his feet, and knocked him clean through the doorway down the steps onto the hard sidewalk. Joe followed his fallen foe, and we all passed through the doorway.

"Double-bank him!—him!" cried "rough No. 2," making a dash at Joe. "Double-bank," in sporting parlance, is to take an unfair advantage, two or more on one. But Joe was not easily double-banked, especially when I took a hand in, as I speedily did, knocking one of the ruffians into the gutter with a swinging hit under the ear. A crowd assembled speedily; the cry "police!" was raised. The two roughs that were able to get to their feet, the first who was still insensible was captured by the Metropolitan, while Joe, the savant and myself, got off unnoticed in the crowd. I never saw a man look so thoroughly disgusted as Clark did at the failure of plan No. 1.

(To be continued—Commenced in No. 41.)

Lost Love.

BY MARY REED CROWELL.

"No, I never liked him, and what's more, I am perfectly astonished that you should. A person of your perspicuity ought to see further in this case than you do."

So saying, Miss Desmond removed her bright eyes off Sophy Ridgeway's face, whither she had been looking so piercingly for the last five minutes.

Sophy was looking a little flushed, not a little displeased, and considerably worried. It is so strange to me, Frank, that you dislike Mr. King so. Why should you? Is he not all a gentleman should be?"

There was a little proud impatience in her voice.

Frank Desmond's lips curled just a trifle.

"Oh, yes; I must confess he is remarkably good looking, talented, and all that sort of thing. But, Sophy—"

I wish I could describe that "but" as Miss Desmond uttered it, and emphasized it; but the tone of satire, doubt solemnity, that she conveyed is untranslatable on paper.

Sophy looked up, wonderingly.

"As I was about to remark," continued Frank, "there are many qualities about Mr. King that completely spoil any good points he possesses. In the first place, Sophy, my dear, you never could think of marrying a man who worked for his living! What would the Desmonds and Ridgeways say?"

"But, he owns such a dear little place in Astoria—oh, it is sweet, Frank?"

"Earned by drawing designs for locomotives! Sophy Ridgeway, I am ashamed of you; where has your family pride gone to?"

"I am sick of the name! I wish some of your aristocratic blood flowed in my veins, for then I'd be free to make myself happy."

"By marrying a civil engineer, I presume!" Well, Sophy, I only hope Uncle Armstrong will not permit this mesalliance."

Pretty Sophy was enraged at that, and she sprang vehemently up off the scarlet plush lounge.

"I tell you, you shall not so regard it! Archer King is fit for a princess of the blue blood, and I shall feel honored by being his wife—if ever I am."

Frank watched her fair, flushing face, and thought how natural it was that Archer King loved her—she was so graceful and ladylike, and piquant.

Miss Desmond leaned back in her Gothic chair, and peered at her cousin from under her lashes; then, when Sophy had resettled herself, still trembling from her little wrathful outburst, she spoke.

"You add a very judicious remark—if ever you become Mrs. King. Now, my darling coz, promise me to think of this; promise me you will give mature deliberation to this important subject and be prepared to refuse Mr. King when he asks you. Then, I have a delightful morsel of news for you, Sophy. You are to come up to Court Desmond, to-night, to Nina's reception, and you will meet Chester Pelham. You remember Chester?"

But whether she did or not, Sophy gave no answer.

"Now, a match with Mr. Pelham, dear, would be so desirable; he is very rich, and of such a grand old family, you know. Papa and uncle Armstrong would be so delighted."

"Then I suppose I am to come to your house for the express purpose of securing him?"

Miss Desmond was not to be hindered by that plain translation of her words.

"If you choose to think so, yes. Mr.

King will be invited too, so that may alter the case."

"What! a civil engineer invited to Court Desmond?"

Miss Desmond bit her lip vexedly.

"Of course, as a friend he'll do very well. A husband is very different. You'll come, Sophy?"

She gathered up her trailing blue silken skirt, and swept out to her carriage, throwing a parting consoling kiss to Sophy, who watched her, half-angry, half-wounded, wholly dissatisfied. Then, as the phaeton turned a curve in the autumn-leaved road, she walked wearily away from the window, wondering if Frank was right; that perhaps she ought not to marry for love, because she happened to have the Desmond and Ridgeway blood in her veins!

"Papa, before the carriage comes round, I would like you to answer me a question." Sophy Ridgeway came up to the chair where her father was reading; standing under the full blaze of light that came from the chandelier she made a beautiful picture, with the magnificent apartments of the room for a background.

She particularly became the trailing satin dress of corn-colored satin, that shone like gleaming gold under the misty white lace overskirt; small pearls were her ornaments, with a drooping branch of white hyacinths in her hair at the side, and a little white rosebud with a geranium leaf nestling among the tiny curls on her forehead.

"Well, daughter, what is it?"

"Only this: are you willing for me to marry Archer King if he asks me?"

How her heart was throbbing, first with hope, then fear, for the answer.

Mr. Ridgeway deliberately twirled his watch chain before he answered.

"No. He is hardly the man for my son-in-law. Besides, you must marry money, Sophy; your husband must be one who can support you as I have done."

A cold cloud seemed closing around her for a moment; then she rallied, and played carelessly with the chain on her bracelet.

"How would Mr. Pelham do?"

She hated herself for the words so soon as they were uttered.

Mr. Ridgeway grasped her hands in an impulse of delight.

"My dear! I had not dared mention it! You have my consent, blessing and God-speed all in one."

A contemptuous little smile curled Sophy's lips, but underneath her heart was sore.

Just then the carriage rolled up, and she entered it for her ride to Court Desmond.

"Sophy, I have waited so long for this opportunity, to ask you to be my own darling. Have you an answer for me?"

They were standing in the bay window; Archer King, in his proud, imperious manner, and Sophy Ridgeway, so calm and collected, and her heart throbbing its wild protest against her cruelty.

But then she was a Ridgeway, the daughter of a Desmond; and the Desmonds and Ridgeways of this glorious world of ours must not consort with civil engineers!

She wondered afterward how she ever got through it—that task of rejecting the man she loved—but then she remembered the kind, disinterested advice of her cousin Frank, who was so proud of the name and lineage, and perhaps that strengthened her.

At any rate, she told Archer King, very kindly, almost tenderly, that it could not be; that she did not think it best to marry just then; and sent him away with anguish in his heart.

With all her desire to do her duty by her family, Sophy could not bring herself to be captivated by, or herself captivate, Chester Pelham that night; and so, when she went home in the early gray of a stormy December morning, she thought the world never had held such utter misery and desolation.

With the privilege of chronicler of people's joys and griefs, we shall make a bridge of our faithful pen, and stride across the waters of years—four long, weary years to our heroine, Sophy Ridgeway.

It had at last been decided by her, during those years of absence from home, when she had restlessly traveled from place to place, because of the lonely sorrowfulness over in her heart, that she would no longer make a slave of herself to the foolish family pride that had dashed her first cup to the ground.

As for Chester Pelham, he was married to some pretty little thing, without a cent in the world; and, as Sophy never had liked him particularly, she was glad of it.

She wondered if Archer King was living yet; had he forgotten her, or was she enshrined in his heart as he was in hers?

Poor Sophy was then a firm believer in man's constancy; perhaps it would be well for us all if we could know for truth, that women are no less true than they.

It was in London, as she waited a day or so for the steamship to New York, that she decided to go to him, and tell him all, and make the venture.

She knew everybody, especially Frank Desmond, would be angry; she almost feared what her proud cousin would say to be obliged to call a civil engineer "cousin Archer!"

The knowledge of what might result from her decision lent pleasant delight to the tedium of her ocean voyage; so much so, that her father expressed his satisfaction at her returning spirits.

"There is no land like America, is there, Sophy?"

"And no people like our own noble, ambitious, self-making people."

Mr. Ridgeway had forgotten all about Archer King, long ago, and so did not comprehend her remark.

At Ridge Way, the very first person she met was Archer King; and, with a glad cry of delight, she sprang to him.

"Oh, Archer, my dear, dear Archer, I've come all the way across the seas to find you and tell you to forget those cruel words that night. I'll take them—every one—back; and I'll ask you, now, if I may be your wife? I also loved you so, Archer, my darling!"

She had kissed his handsome, shapely hands, and was now holding them against her blushing cheeks, her love-lit eyes reading his face.

He seemed bewildered at first; then she saw a pallor spring across his face.

"What is it, Archer? You think I am unmaidenly. Oh, Archer, you haven't ceased loving me?"

There was just a touch of sharpness in her voice; but it changed instantly to her loving, caressing tone again.

"I am sure you love me, else why has the sweet hope, nay, the blessed certainty, buoyed me up all these months? Please say one word, Archer!"

He seemed powerless to utter a syllable; and then, that very moment, there fell a soft, sweet voice on their ear:

"Papa! here comes mamma and I!"

And a little boy, just large enough to limp and walk, came down the path, holding fast to Frank Desmond's hand!

"For God's sake, Sophy, forget this. This is my wife and baby!"

A pitiful quiver was playing on Sophy's lips, and I think if ever human eyes conveyed anguished reproach, or horrified despair, it was conveyed in Sophy Ridgeway's eyes when they met Frank Desmond's—

—I mean, Frank King's.

The woman blushed and trembled till even her wronged victim pitied her; then her only reproach burst from her lips.

"Oh, Frank! Frank! this from you!"

She walked home to the henceforth lonely house, leaving the husband and wife to their thoughts.

Norah's Sleigh-ride

And What Came of it.

BY T. C. HARBATGHL

"DAY after to-morrow is cousin Claribel's wedding-day, and I shall not be present at the ceremony. Oh, isn't it provoking!" and, with a petulant sigh, Norah Conklin looked out upon the snow-burdened curb.

"Have patience, Norah," said good old grandmother Hartzell, looking up from her knitting. "Have patience, I say. You may hear Ned's sleigh-bells before night."

"I shall be greatly surprised if I do," said Norah, turning disappointedly from the window. "He wrote that he would be here against twelve to-day, and, only look, grandmother, it will soon strike four. Oh, I've given up all hopes of seeing cousin Ned."

Norah was sorely disappointed.

She had received an invitation to her cousin's wedding, and she longed to be present. Claribel lived thirty miles from Vinton. The major portion of the road led through woods, and long untimbered stretches of prairie.

At the period of which we write, the shriek of the locomotive had not broke the stillness of that part of Illinois, and journeys had to be made in wheeled vehicles, save in the winter, when sleighs were used.

Ned Conklin, who owned a little notion-store in Carntown, a village ten miles from Vinton, had promised to take Norah to Claribel's wedding, and the journey was to be made in a sleigh.

It was near five o'clock when Norah heard the rattle of bells in front of their house, and running to the window, she beheld, with a cry of surprise, Ned dismounting from his cutter.

"We shall start directly, Ned," she said, when he had entered the house. "It will be a beautiful moonlight night, and we can reach Claribel's before dawn. Oh, it will be so pleasant gliding over the snow in the ambient light of the queen of night!"

Old Mrs. Hartzell peeped over the gold rims of her spectacles at Norah, with a look of surprise.

"Norah, you are not going to persuade Ned to drive those dreary thirty miles to-night?"

"Dreary thirty miles!" echoed Norah. "I wonder if you would call them dreary were you young, and had such a handsome cousin as Ned?"

Norah laughed to see the old lady nonplussed, and Ned acknowledged the compliment she had bestowed upon him.

"But, Norah, there are wolves on 'Hammond's Stretch.'"

"Who's afraid of lupus?" cried Norah, bravely. "Are you, Ned?"

"No, Norah."

"Then we will go to-night. Supper is nearly ready, and so soon as it is over we will start."

Norah was in high glee at the prospect of a thirty-mile moonlight sleigh-ride, and when supper had been discussed she stepped into Ned's cutter.

"I fear you will encounter wolves on the 'Stretch,'" said Norah's father. "That tract has become quite dangerous of late, and the cold weather has driven the ravenous animals to desperation. Are you armed, Ned?"

"I possess a revolver."

"Accept of mine, too," and Mr. Conklin placed a new "navy" into his nephew's hands.

"I think we should have several cannon," said Norah, with an ironical laugh.

"You will wish you had them before you get to Claribel's, and I tell you," said "grandmother." "You'd better not go till morning."

"And probably miss the wedding," said Norah. "No, grandmother, we will go to Claribel's to-night, wolves or no wolves."

This settled the question, and a minute later Ned touched the horses with the whip, and away they went.

The moon peeped over the snow as the cousins left Vinton and struck the road leading to Milledgeville, in which town "cousin Claribel" dwelt.

At last one-third of the distance to Claribel's was left behind, and, as they emerged from a forest, and beheld a stretch of prairie before them, Ned said:

"There, cousin Norah, we are out of Shirley's Wood, and no wolves yet. Now for eighteen miles of 'Hammond's Stretch.'"

Norah made a reply from beneath her muffler, in which she laughed at her grandmother's fears, and Ned permitted the horses to choose their own gait.

"Hammond's Stretch" was a tract of prairie land, which ran to the very suburbs of Milledgeville. Its dreary aspect was unrelieved the entire distance in but a single instance. A deserted hut defied the wind and snow, and, now and then, sheltered a benighted traveler from old Boreas' ire.

The cousins had sleighed over a mile of the "Stretch," when a sound smote their ears, which caused Norah's blood to freeze in her delicate veins, and her little heart stood still with fear.

She did not ask Ned the meaning of the sound; she knew its import.

Ned immediately struck the beasts sharply with the whip. He thought that Norah had not heard the ominous howl of the wolves.

Presently another cry was borne to their ears by the night-wind.

"Cousin," said Norah, looking up at Ned, "the wolves are on our track!"

"Yes, Norah," he answered. "But I think we can outrun them."

"I fear we can not. Let us return to Vinton."

"What! and attempt to charge through the pack?" he cried, looking down into her frightened face. "What! Norah, rush into the jaws of death?"

"I did not think of that, Ned," she said, with a sigh of despair.

"The devils are in our rear, Norah, and their numbers are increasing continually. Hark! that howl to our left, cousin, comes from wolfish reinforcements. Yes, we must run for it. It is our only hope of safety. Murat! Ney!" and rising to his feet, he laid the whip unsparringly upon the backs of the horses, who, having sniffed the wolves, needed no other incentive to increase their speed.

On, on, over the snow, mellow in the light of Astarte, went the cousins—one trembling beneath a load of furs, the other standing erect, his face wearing a determined expression.

At last the wolves came in sight. Their shaggy backs touching each other, seemed a gigantic shadow stealing over the snow. They were fearfully near—nearer than Ned Conklin had thought.

Suddenly something loomed up between him and the starlit horizon. It was the hut.

He had decided that, if hotly pursued by the wolves, he would seek refuge in the hut until day should appear, and drive the ravenous brutes back to their dens. But when he glanced back he could scarcely distinguish their pursuers, and concluded to dash past the hut and drive for Milledgeville, which was still ten miles distant.

He urged the faithful animals on, and had almost reached the hut, when, in an unlucky moment, one of the runners gave out, and the sleigh lost its equilibrium. The cousins were thrown out into the snow; but Ned managed to retain the lines and checked the horses. He assisted Norah to her feet, and, securing the animals to the broken-down sleigh, hurried with her to the hut.

"We must pass the night here, Norah," he said, without an outward sign of fear.

Norah shrunk into one corner of the doorless structure, and Ned returned to the sleigh. He gathered up the robes and shawls, and dragged the useless vehicle to the hut.

"Murat and Ney I must leave to shift for themselves. They will outrun the wolves and reach Milledgeville. Of course their arrival will excite suspicion of accident, and bring us aid against dawn."

Ned adjusted the harness in such a manner that it would not interfere with the speed of the horses, and then struck them with the whip.

"Go, dumb messengers," he cried, "and summon aid to this lonely hut."

"God grant it!" fervently responded Norah

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A STRANGE STORY!

The opening chapters of Mr. Albert W. Aiken's new serial Society and City Life Romance,

The White Witch; OR, THE LEAGUE OF THREE.

will be presented in the coming number of the SATURDAY JOURNAL.

This announcement will be a pleasing one to that very large audience whom the spirited and versatile author can now claim as his own. That he is one of the

MOST POPULAR AND BEST READ

of writers for the popular press, is evident from the material fact that the interest in his productions increases with each new work from his pen, compelling large

Additions to Advance Order Lists

from the Trade. This interest is sure to be heightened by the serial now announced, which, in all the essentials of character, story, mystery and passion will give a vivid proof of the truth of the old saying,

Good Fruit comes only from Good Seed;

for it is at once striking in its originality, intensely dramatic in its action, powerful in its cast of characters, and full of that subtle undercurrent of feeling which, in all great stories or dramas, distributes throughout the entire work a

Charm that is Magic

in its ability to enchain thought and attention. The main idea involved is that of a League of three men, directed by a mind of almost supernatural power, whose purpose, attested in a *Red Pledge*, is to destroy a brave life. Around this central idea flits and floats the

STRANGE, MYSTERIOUS, BAFFLING

WHITE WITCH,

in whom the League finds a foil which even a mind of Lucifer-like resources can not outwit and break. Then, as leading agents in the commingled work of good and evil, the author presents the Baxter street BIRDS OF PREY, who are photographed with a cleverness which Dickens might have envied; and the little

MYSTERIOUS MAN OF THE TOOTHPICK,

who is a character not to be forgotten; and the LADY OF SMILES and WILES from over the Sea; and the WOMAN WITH THE EYE OF NIGHT whose identity with the WHITE WITCH seems so certain: all of whom give great scope and breadth to the action, and stamp the work as one teeming with points of interest, and elements well calculated to render it

The Literary Sensation of the Season!

Contributors and Correspondents.

Poem, GOOD-BY, BUT COME AGAIN, is excellent in spirit and feeling, but the author having chosen a composite rhythm, has not succeeded perfectly in its properties. Persons unacquainted with the art of scanning and the principles of verse should adhere to the simpler forms, wherein the ear may lead them to correct or harmonious expression.

We return MSS. JUST IN TIME; A NIGHT EXCURSION; THE DRIVER'S TOLL; BEN BUCK; A GIRL'S FREAK; SUSAN MERTON'S FAITH; FANCY FINE AND HEARTY BOUND; THE SIX SHOTS; HEN HALPINE'S DORG; A PANTHER RACE; KEEP ALONG; BIG HOLLAND'S REVENGE; ALICE; THE RESCUE; ADA AND HER LOVERS; and several poems by the same author; THE FOOT SHOOTER; AND GOTTIE'S LAGER; THE DEATH SHOT; A GRIM SPECTER, etc., etc.

Will use A CLOSE ACQUAINTANCE WITH JUDGE LYNN; A RACE WITH THE APACHES; JIM DAYTON'S DEAD FAL; DEVIL'S BLUFF; ONE AGAINST FOUR.

WHY DO WE MOURN? is singularly made up of good and defective lines. The author evidently has talent, but it is unskilled and unschooled.

We can not give the author of THE TEN FATES an "opinion." It is quite enough for us to read the mass of MS. which daily finds its way to our table.

We return ESSIE'S PRIDE and TOO MANY COORS SPOIL THE BEAUTY. The sketch is too simple in incident. The first-named has been told over and over again. The author must, in the invention of incident, seek for novelty, in some shape.

The poem, LOVER'S MASK, is a joke, we fear. If not a joke then the writer must be looked after, for he'll be getting into the river of which he sings:

"The whole bottom is covered with sparkling stones
Which look up in their glittering beauty,
And I, in imagination see
So like your love and purity."

Can make no use of poem, MISERIES OF WAR. It is rhyme but not poetry. No address or stamps.

We return sketch TANGHANNOK. M. K., of Providence, writes about her own business, asking information and an answer, and remits no stamps. Judging from her note we should say she could not write a book worthy of publication.

Thanks to Mr. 'Spikes' of Keokuk for his good opinion of the *Star*. He regards it, as do thousands of others, as the most attractive of all the Weeklies. It is a great success, in all senses.

Must return RACE FOR LIFE—having a surfeit of that class of matter. As a composition, it is somewhat defective. Author has yet to learn the art of punctuation.

Again we say, to all authors remitting us contributions—put your name and address on the first MS. page.

ITEMS OF HISTORY not available. Writer is both young and not well "posted." As a rule, it is dangerous to attempt an elucidation where your knowledge is meager.

AN ADVERTISER is informed that a line means a line. As to the number of lines, count a line and you will solve the problem. As columns differ in width, and type differs in size, so the number of words in a line differ. The advertising columns of the SATURDAY JOURNAL average about ten words to a line.

LEONA can address "Beat Time" through us. He is open to presents, he informs us, from a tin whistle down to a pass to visit the Lunatic Asylum. He don't keep a horse, but his half-sister's mother's first husband lives near by, in the cemetery.

A. L. S. writes approvingly of woman's right to go to lectures, etc., without a man bean, and praises one of the "strong-minded," Mrs. L. Everyone to their taste.

Authors will please arrange their MSS. ready for reading by having their first page first, not last, in the order of arrangement. Some writers are so careless as to remit their contributions "wrong end first"—a sure sign that it has had no second reading by themselves, and therefore no revision.

Foolscap Papers.

The Battle of New Orleans.

This battle was fought on the 8th of Jan., 1815, A. D. or B. C., I don't remember which exactly, as I wasn't in that neighborhood at the time, and of course did not see it, and the historians are not to be depended upon any more. It was fought some time after the declaration of peace, and therefore they did not count it. The telegraph not being in working order at the time caused the difficulty, and it was a matter of much re-Morse to both nations, and the mistake was greatly deplored by those who fell on that field.

The gentleman who commanded the English was Packin'ham, and he had crossed the brine, thinking it would be handy to lay in a new stock of Orleans molasses too—he wanted to lick something, but I may anticipate and say that he got licked worse than molasses. Beauty and Booty was also his cry, and I think he missed the first but got the bootie.

Jackal Genson had charge of the Americans, who were fashionably entrenched behind breastworks of cotton, knowing well that if they got into difficulty they would have no trouble in getting plenty of bale, or words to that effect.

The general swore eternally that the Union must and shall be preserved if the American women went without cotton for a year; then the British advanced to the martial music of three hand-organs and one piano, fired and fell back; those that didn't fall back ran back because of the Americans opening on them a terrible cottonade. In this attack one regiment of British suddenly had its retreat cut off and nearly bled to death in consequence.

The American troops were like the cotton, raw, but no matter how hard they were pressed they laid behind those cotton-bales as if they had been drilling for years and proceeded to give the British a good *battling*.

The British General commissioned a lot of commission merchants from the north to go and cabbage those cotton-bales, and though they came very near doing it they didn't quite.

It may be said that there were more pounds at those bales than there were in them. The sharpshooters had a lively time in picking off hundreds of British officers with patent apple and cotton-pickers and tooth-picks. Several thousands of British would have been placed *hors du combat* at the first fire, but all the balls that were fired didn't hit. At one time the American General was riding along his lines, and if he had been struck fair and square by a round cannon ball he would have in all probability been killed, or it would have been a wonderful escape—such narrow escapes men sometimes run. During the next attack three of the best American guns went off without saying anything to anybody; a battalion of cavalry was sent after them but they couldn't catch them. One lieutenant missed his presence of mind, but it was afterward caught and treated as a deserter.

The British employed some army carpenters at two dollars and a half a day and board to make a detour—I don't recollect what they made it out of—but the Americans organized a *joint* company of butchers to make a *cut* at them with a *flank* movement, which had the effect of breaking their *tender lines* and sending them back with very retiring dispositions and with great slaughter-house.

At every volley hundreds of English gentlemen had their heads taken off or were otherwise disfigured for life. General Packenham was killed—it was the most unfortunate thing that could have happened to him—a ball penetrated his clothes-line and completely ruined his military system. Every man that was in the battle claimed the shot, and they ought to be awarded the honor.

Such a hot fire was kept up from the British batteries that it is a marvel of history that all the raw American cotton was not cooked. Charges and counter-charges, and over-charges, and discharges, and charges to keep I have, and charges to lose, were all of no avail, and cotton still remained firm, even in spite of the British advances and re-advances, and the cotton gin-eral rode composedly along his lines cheering his men with three cheers and a tiger, with his fan before him to protect his countenance from bodily harm and preserve it intact for the purpose of serenely ornamenting future two-cent postage-stamps, and to receive the only licking he ever got.

The Americans lost only seven killed and six wounded—four of the former were surgeons who killed themselves in despair because they had no limbs to take off—no limbs could portray their disappointment. Their very medical chests heaved with regret at the bare loss of their pleasant hopes.

When the sun went down the British saw they were losing the day, although they had done their best to hold it, and when night came and they couldn't take anybody else, they took themselves away, leaving the field

in the hands of the American cotton dealers, but as the field was somewhat large and rather heavy, it is to be supposed they didn't hold it very long. One colored cook turned white, and this was the only man the darkies lost on that day.

There is room for much speculation in regard to this battle. How strange it is to think that the battle would not have been fought if word had been sent in time, or that if the British had not been there there would have been no bloodshed, or that if the Americans had been absent the battle would have been obviated, or that—but I am infringing upon Massachusetts metaphysics, and there are the pigs to feed.

Your chronic friend,
WASHINGTON WHITEHORN.

Onward and Upward!

Our great increase in sales since the commencement of "Phantom Prices," has proved it to be the hit of the New Year. Orders by telegraph and mail flow in upon us from East, West, North and South. Edition after edition is thus exhausted. We are running our presses night and day to meet this demand. Readers who want to secure copies of our FIRST EDITIONS should leave orders at their newsdealer's at once. Our late improvements certainly have made the SATURDAY JOURNAL, in typography, illustration and story, the best and most beautiful weekly story-paper published in the world.

On the advent of our last literary star—our Hunter—thousands have been doubly convinced of this fact, and, like a new luminary, the "peerless paper" shoots high upon the wave of popular favor.

MUSIC VS. NOISE.

A POETICAL young damsel informs me that "the sweetest music one can hear is the prattle of a darling child." That's very good, regarded in a poetical light, but I scarcely think she ever took care of a friend's young one, as I have done, or maybe she wouldn't continue in the same frame of mind. How she would have enjoyed the same prattle, if she was reading an intensely-interesting story, and had come to that portion where Claribel jumps from the tower into her lover's arms, to be interrupted by being asked if C. A. T. doesn't spell dog; or when she was pondering over Claribel's extreme patience, and resolving to profit by it, have the child prattle in a sweet voice, because it had cut its little finger with a naughty knife. Her good resolution would not be carried out; Claribel's troubles would give way to her own. That's the time for her to write about the "sweetest music being the prattle of a darling child." Doesn't she love to hear this prattle at the breakfast-table squalling for everything that lies within its reach, and warbling its notes at the highest pitch if its wants are not complied with?

"Oh! how beautiful is the music of lovers' words, as they are wafted on the midnight air!" Sweet sentiment, isn't it? But if you were kept awake last night by the meeting of Biddy and her fellow, you would say that there was more noise than music to it. It seemed to me to be a jingle of, when Pat's employer died he was to be better off, and that he and Biddy were to go to housekeeping in a room where they'd have the privilege of selling "prattles," peanuts and crackers. These two souls were miserably in the future, by making me miserable in the present.

"In our grandfathers' days," the women-folks used to stop at home, and their pleasant words sounded like sweet music. Now, forthwith, they must rush to the rostrum, shout in a brazen manner, to a promiscuous audience, propound absurd queries, as to why they came into existence, and have all good people exclaim, "How much money she must get!" instead of, "How much good she is doing!"

Give us a little less noise, lady orators, and a great deal more music.

"How heavenly Signora Squaki does sing!" said a friend of mine, in an enthusiastic manner. I went to hear her. Where the heavenly portion came in, I was to learn. I thought her tones were enough to frighten every angel out of Paradise. Why can't people be more particular in their modes of expressing themselves? Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast, but I wouldn't advise Signora Squaki to try her lungs on the noble gentlemen; they might take it as an Italian war-whoop, and "cry havoc, and let slip the dogs of war."

There's music in a merry laugh, but it's painful to notice our actresses "put on" that merry laugh. It doesn't seem natural to them to do it, and, as a general thing, it is a most lamentable failure. And, gentlemen actors, will you allow Eve to state that the majority of your audiences think there is more noise than music in your ranting? Ranting is unnatural, unmusical, and unadmirable.

"But where is music to be found?" you ask. Well, come with me, and I'll endeavor to show you. Come into the abode of suffering; bring your pocket-book with you; give its contents to the deserving poor. "God bless and reward you!" will be the thankful cry. Is not that sweet music? Notice the young man surrounded by temptations, and though induced to join with his dissolute companions, he has the courage to say "No." Is that noise or music? Listen to the sweet tones of the maiden as she promises to be a faithful, loving wife. Those tones are far more heavenly than all of Signora Squaki's trills and quavers.

Why are all the songs written about "Mother" so exquisite and touching? For the simple reason that the subject of them has the purest and most musical name. We may try of other things, of other persons, places, but can we ever tire of the name of mother? And, mothers, I have a word for you: your children will find more music in your words of love than in your harsh scoldings. A noisy house is a house of discord, but a quiet house is one of love.

EVE LAWLESS.

Twenty Readers to One Paper.

J. L. A., of Carroll Co., N. H., writes that the SATURDAY JOURNAL is such a favorite in his neighborhood that his copy is read regularly by twenty persons, and gives great delight. If our friend was a little more selfish he might induce some of his patrons to subscribe for a copy for themselves; but, we are happy to see our paper "on the rounds." It proves that the people want it. A stupid paper nobody cares to borrow or read. Let the twenty have the paper; they'll soon be calling for one exclusively for their household. Our reception by the households of the land is truly a cheering "sign of the times," and our astonishing increase in circulation which already places us in the front ranks, is a most gratifying proof that a five weekly is a welcome guest, at this time.

A WORK FOR WOMEN.

In these days of "woman's rights," and "woman's wrongs," of "man's inhumanity to woman," and the ten thousand other grievances of which every heart and mind is full, I can not help thinking of woman's inhumanity to herself in her treatment of immoral men.

I wish women would do what they can for themselves. That to which they have a right, no man can take from them. But, instead, they too often leave the wrong within reach of their hand unrighted while they wait for "rights" they do not possess. Work is infinitely preferable to talk, and I should have vastly more respect for my sex if they would show themselves to be truly earnest, thoughtful, right-loving, wrong-hating workers.

The importance of this question can hardly be overestimated. The cause of the fall of many women in city and country, "whose ways are the ways that lead down to death," may be laid at the door of women. Women of irreproachable character, highly respected and influential, make friends and associates of men who are immoral—men whose every thought is an insult to every pure woman with whom they come in contact. Matrons throw open their doors to them, welcome them as highly esteemed friends, and teach their daughters to regard them as such. They consider them *gentlemen*, allow their daughters to receive their attentions, and, by-and-by, when the wolf destroys the lamb, having taught their children to consider its wolfish propensities perfectly legitimate and proper, the mothers are horrified and grieved beyond telling—the daughter is turned from her father's door loaded with the scorn and contempt of all, upbraided, reviled and shunned; while, if her destroyer is afterward forbidden the house, others of the same class are admitted; and he, himself, in the eyes of all save the family most concerned, is regarded blameless, and *they* by no means despise or shun him from principle. It is only because he has brought disgrace upon them.

Shame! shame! that such things should be—that woman should be so false to herself, so false to all principles of justice and right, so absolutely destitute of purity and moral principle!

These women, who regard licentiousness in men as a privilege belonging to the sex—who welcome with smiles the most depraved among them—who receive their friendship and attentions, and even *marry* these embodiments of iniquity, whose souls are stained to midnight blackness with crimes which are not considered crimes because a *man* commits them—these virtuous, high-souled, pure-minded women—are they charitable to the female companions of these crimes, to the perhaps heretofore innocent victim of these human serpents? No! To their everlasting shame and disgrace be it said, they are among the bitterest foes of these erring women, among the first to blame and the last to pity, he last to encourage them to live better and nobler lives, the last, the very last, to try by love and kindness to reclaim them from the iron clutch of Vice and bring them back to Virtue. The very mention of the name of an outcast woman fills them with disgust and horror—they shrink from their presence as from a viper, and if, in walking the street, they chance to meet one, they shrink away shudderingly, with drawn-back drapery, lest in contact with her they should be contaminated! And perhaps at this very time there walks beside them an unprincipled, licentious man—one utterly lost to virtue and morality; is he an outcast? do they shrink from him, shudderingly and with disgust? No! they lean on his arm, they smile up in his face, they laugh and converse familiarly with him, and treat him in every respect as an honored and esteemed friend.

Oh, woman of the nineteenth century! where is your justice and purity, that you can thus crush into the dust your fallen sisters, and receive to your bosoms your fallen brothers? Where your true Christianity and morality, that you can thus encourage Vice, thus lift it to a level with Virtue by giving it the support of your purity and womanliness? Where your principles of right, when you can thus offer the hand of fellowship to vice on the one hand, and refuse both fellowship and charity on the other?

There is a great reform needed in this matter. It is the duty of every woman who has not heretofore been true to herself, and true to right, as regards it, to begin now, and help to crush out this wide-spread evil by refusing to associate, in *any manner*, with men who are not virtuous. Young women say, "We must receive the attentions of such men, or go without; there are no others."

Then, if there are no others, go WITHOUT! Would you associate with, and make a friend of, a cyprusian, if there chanced to be no pure woman near? You know you would not!

But, there are pure and virtuous men, and there would be more—and that speedily, if women would have nothing to do with those who are not such.

LETTIE ARKLEY IRONS.

A WARNING!

The late *Atlantic Monthly* follows up its January article on "The Use of the Eyes," by a second paper, pregnant with warning against abuse of the eyes, especially their abuse in reading the fine 'diamond' and 'pearl' type of some of the popular weekly papers.

There can be no doubt that fine type and badly-printed pages have had much to do in ruining the sight of thousands; and it is now found that the sales of the "diamond" books is fast decreasing—the inducement of much more in quantity of matter being small consideration for an injury to the delicate and precious organ of sight.

Many young persons, having excellent sight, do not realize their danger in the constant straining and taxing of their vision; but there can be only one result even to the best of eyes—impaired or wholly ruined sight, if the practice of perusing microscopic print is not abandoned; and those parents are acting wisely who forbid their children to read such print, be it in book or paper.

Convinced of all this from our own experience, and heeding the warnings which are multiplying against bad print and small type, we shall produce a paper uniformly beautiful in its press impression and clear in its copper-faced letter—brevier in size, but so compact in its 'shoulder' or body as to give, in actual quantity, almost as much as if a smaller and less distinct letter was used.

Not quantity, however, but *quality* of matter should be every reader's standard of choice. Regardable by this standard this paper presents more than its desirable to read than any popular weekly now printed—a statement, not made boastfully, but as repeating what unquestionably is the opinion of all who have given the subject attention.

THE SLEEPING STATUE.

BY A. W. BELLAW.

Softly they step, break not this sleep of dreams,
Nor lure these light lids to unveil their shrines,
For this is she who won the golden need
As fairest in the judgment of the gods.
There on the slope of lovely mountain Ida—
For whom the earth went envious of the sea
Regretting the lost honor of her birth.

She looks as if she had been caught by sleep
In some sweet vale between a misty knoll,
By vapor shrouded from the amorous moon,
And that in roaming there the gods had found
And breathed her into marble as she lay.

How quiet, wandering o'er her fabled face,
The sunny exhalation of its rest,
Catching the beauty of idyllic morn,
Whence she comes to this unheroic shore.

Her conscious cheek, all innocently soft,
Seems smitten with the charm of sweet desires,
And playful pulses of the under-blood
Rise into sweet expression of her bliss,
Painting the dreaminess of the dream within.

Her lips lack only breath to thrill and move
Unheard of accents of her goddess name,
What magic in their mystery of shape!
Arched glorious as if wooing with a kiss
Some god who had not witnessed it unwon,
While the frail scarf that billows with her breast
Showing the mold of her scarce-hidden form,
Seems only fitted to be worn by minds
Which left the viney vales of haunted Ida
To breathe her graces at the Pellan wake.

When will she wake, or will she never wake?
It were a sin to shake a state so sweet,
Come then away, you gaze on it too fond,
And let her sleep, how strange and yet so calm!

The Ocean Bride.

BY AGILE PENNE.

"WHAT a strange, odd girl your new seamstress seems to be," said Mr. Edwin Corton, to his wife as they sat in the front parlor of their snug dwelling on Twenty-third street, in the city of New York, one pleasant morning in the month of December.

The girl spoken of, sat by the window in the back parlor sewing, steadily.

In person, she was tall and stately; in years, probably three-and-twenty—brown eyed and brown haired, and beautiful, despite the pallor of her face and the wan look of her full, brown eyes.

"Yes," replied the wife, "she is a strange girl. It is very evident that her station in life has been far above her present position. She is so willing. It was only yesterday that she came into my room while I was dressing; I had my hair down and you know how long it is and how it bothers me to do it up. She asked if she shouldn't arrange it for me. Of course, I gladly consented, and never before was it done up so becoming."

"So that she is a 'lady's maid' as well as a sewing-girl?"

"Yes; but she seems to me more like an old friend than a stranger."

"You may thank your lucky star that you have procured such a treasure," said the husband, laughing.

"Now, you needn't laugh, for she is quite a treasure. If she would only smile now and then, she would be perfect."

"And does she never smile?"

"Not very often, and when she does, it is such a sad smile that it pains one to look at her. I am sure that she has met with some heavy sorrow in her life, and mean, some time, to ask her to tell me her history."

"Take care; if she has suffered in the past, your request may give her pain."

"Oh, I shall be very careful how I approach the subject."

Then the conversation ceased.

Mr. Corton put on his overcoat and proceeded down town. Contrary to his usual custom he walked.

As he passed by the St. Nicholas Hotel, a gentleman, standing on the porch, darted forward and seized him by the hand.

The stranger was a large, powerfully built person, with a huge brown beard and a face tanned almost to the hue of the Indian. He was dressed, roughly, in sailor fashion.

Corton stared in astonishment at the stranger, not recognizing the bearded face.

"What? don't you know me?" questioned the man, in astonishment.

Corton remembered the voice in an instant.

"Frank Dredgite, by Jove!" he cried, warmly returning the grasp of the stranger.

"Yes, 'cousin Frank,' as your little wife used to call me."

"Where on earth have you been?"

"Oh, through all sorts of adventures."

"We heard that your ship was lost and that all on board perished."

"Yes, all excepting myself and two others who escaped the wreck; but, how is the little woman?"

"Splendid! Won't you go up and see her? Here's the address," and he scribbled it on the card from his pocket-book. "You see, Frank, I've a business appointment at ten and I mustn't miss it."

"I won't detain you," replied the sailor.

"I've just arrived in town and was wondering if you and coz was still in the land of the living. It's five long years since I've honored New York with my presence."

"You've changed greatly. That huge beard completely disguises you."

"It's a relic of the gold mines. I've been roughing it there for four years. But, I won't keep you from your business. Good-by; I'll go up to the house at once."

And so the two parted.

Detridge proceeded immediately to the Corton mansion.

"Tell Mrs. Corton that her cousin Frank wishes to see her," he said to the servant.

Mrs. Corton directed the servant to bring "cousin Frank" up at once.

The lady was in her own room, preparing for a shopping excursion. Her glossy hair, of raven blackness, was all in disorder, and Miss Hall—the seamstress—with her sleeves rolled up, exposing the plump, white arms, so perfect in their beauty, was busy combing the shining tresses.

"It

A puzzled expression crept over the bronzed features of the sailor as he looked upon the pale face of the hairdresser.

"My companion, Miss Hall," said Mrs. Corton, noticing the look of the sailor.

The girl simply bowed her head at the introduction, but without raising her eyes to the stranger's face.

"But sit down, Frank, and tell me where you have been all this time, and are you married yet?"

"I had the dearest little wife in all the world," said the sailor, seating himself.

Miss Hall started at these words. She raised her eyes and gazed upon the stranger's face with a puzzled look. Then an expression of pain shot across her pale features, and, with a suppressed sigh, she let her gaze fall again.

The sailor, though apparently not noticing the girl, yet had watched her as keenly as the cat watches the mouse.

"Do tell us all about yourself. Why, with that great ugly beard, you look just like the Wandering Jew!" cried Mrs. Corton.

"Very well, I will. You know that I was made of a clipper ship sailing between New York and San Francisco. About five years ago my ship left San Francisco on our return trip to New York. It was the last trip my ship ever made, for, in a violent storm, we ran on a reef in the night. The ship sunk almost instantly; myself and two others alone escaped the wreck. We were cast upon a desolate island."

"Like Robinson Crusoe?" cried Mrs. Corton, deeply interested.

"Exactly," replied the sailor, with a smile. "As I have said, three escaped the wreck; myself, an aged clergyman and a young girl."

"A young girl?"

"Yes, she and her father, the minister, were passengers on board the ship."

Miss Hall's little white fingers trembled as they busied themselves in the ebony locks of hair. She was evidently as deeply interested in "cousin Frank's" story as her mistress.

"With portions of the wreck washed ashore by the sea, I constructed a rude cabin that served us for shelter. Some few chests and barrels were also washed ashore, containing salted meats and various other articles, among which were, luckily, some fishing-lines and hooks. And as the sea that washed the island abounded in fish, and the island itself was full of sea-fowl, we were in no danger of starving."

"Three days after the wreck the old minister was taken ill. The hardship through which he had passed had brought upon him a dangerous sickness. He felt that death was near."

"He called his daughter and myself to his bedside; calmly he told us that he knew he had not many hours to live. Then he spoke of the chance of rescue from the island. That rescue might come at any moment from northern-bound vessels."

"Then he spoke of his daughter, alone on earth."

"I saw instantly what was troubling the mind of the good old man. His death would leave the girl and myself alone on the desolate island. I saw but one way out of the strange situation. I had, secretly, loved the girl from the moment she had come on board the ship at San Francisco. I offered at once to make her my wife."

"The eyes of the old man sparkled with joy at the proposal."

"The daughter, shyly and lowly, murmured her consent."

"The old minister made us man and wife, and with his dying breath gave us his blessing."

"And did the lady love you?" questioned Mrs. Corton, eagerly.

"I believed so," replied the sailor, slowly.

"For four weeks I was in a heaven of happiness though on the island waste, surrounded by the wild sea-waves. Eve, my wife, seemed to be all that a woman should be to a man. But, one evening, I was rudely awakened from my dream of happiness. I had started, early in the morning, for the eastward side of the island—some three miles from our cabin—for the purpose of procuring fish, as they were more plentiful on that side of the island."

"On returning home, just before evening, from the summit of a cliff, I beheld the white sails of a ship far out on the rolling waters."

"Mad with joy at the sight, I rushed down the slope to my rude cabin, impatient to tell my darling wife of the chance of escape that seemed so near."

"I found the cabin empty! My wife was gone! In wild despair I rushed to the beach. There, on the smooth sand, was the print of many feet, and the impression of a boat's keel."

"The truth flashed upon me in an instant. The ship had sent a boat to the shore, and my wife had escaped without thinking of me. She had basely deserted the man who loved her better than he did all the world beside."

"The voice of the sailor deepened as he spoke. Mrs. Corton listened with eager attention. The seamstress did not lift her downcast eyes, but the big tear-drops, slowly coursing down her pallid cheeks, told of the deep emotion the story of the sailor had inspired."

"As I stood there, on the strand, and gazed upon the tell-tale marks, like a man in a dream, the night came suddenly on—in the tropics, there is no twilight. With the night came a terrible storm. In the morning no sign of the ship was to be seen! How I escaped madness, I can not tell."

"Three weeks later, another ship came in sight, and I was rescued."

"The ship was a clipper, bound for San Francisco. On arriving there, I met some friends going to the mines; I joined them, and, after three years, tired of mining life, I came back to San Francisco, met one of my old captains and shipped with him for New York, and here I am."

"And you have never discovered any traces of your wife?" asked Mrs. Corton.

"Never."

"She was a disgrace to the name of woman to act so," exclaimed Mrs. Corton, warmly.

"Perhaps you judge her too harshly," said the sewing-girl, quietly, and with a sad accent.

"Why, can you defend such an action?" said Mrs. Corton, in astonishment.

"Suppose that she had told the sailors in the boat that came to the island that her husband was there. Suppose that they answered that they would return for him, then carried her to the ship, and there the captain heard her story. Then came the night, and with the night, the storm that drove

the ship many, many miles away, so that it was impossible to return. Perhaps the wife suffered as much as the husband, at being torn from the one who was all in all to her, and to whom she had given all the love of her girlish heart."

"Eve!" cried the sailor, rising in agitation.

In another instant the sewing-girl was folded to his heart.

Cousin Frank had found his long-lost wife.

Her apparent desertion was fully explained.

The ship that rescued her was bound for New York. There she had vainly sought to gain tidings of her husband. At last, believing that he was dead, she assumed her maiden name, and, with a heart bowed down with sorrow, toiled on, wishing for death to come and end her misery. But, the blackest cloud will break in time, and with the breaking came joy to the heart of the Ocean Bride.

The College Rivals: OR, THE BELLE OF PROVIDENCE.

BY DR. WM. MASON TURNER.
AUTHOR OF "\$60,000 REWARD, THE RUBY RING, MABEL VANE, MASKED MINER, ETC."

CHAPTER XIV. A LIGHT IN SIGHT.

It was Ralph Ross who sat in the stern sheets of the "Two Boys" that squally afternoon and guided the rushing yacht, with a bold and steady hand.

It is true, that, as he came thundering across the fore-foot of the little "Bay State," his boat did indeed seem to be unmanageable; and the long main-sheet was whipping in the wind. But it would have seemed singular to a disinterested observer to notice how soon after the collision this triumphant main-sheet was hauled in; how the flying boat came so suddenly up in the wind!

It was singular, too, and it can not be denied, that, when Ralph Ross saw the collision inevitable, he did not put his helm a-port, and bring his craft up in the wind. There was nothing to prevent this. He might have shipped a half-barrel of water in the maneuver, but he would have run no

arm was wound around a halyard. Then, with the wet, fainting form of the girl secure in the encircling grasp of his left arm, the student slowly drew himself and his precious burden to the boat.

At last he paused in his efforts; for a time, at least, he had saved Madeleine Fleming's life.

Then he spoke sweet words, encouragingly, in her ear, and pressed her dripping form close to his breast.

The only utterances Madeleine made then were:

"Fenton—dear Fenton! Heaven be praised!"

There they clung that raw night, in the wind, and amid the waves, which were breaking over them at every surge. But Fenton Thorne was happy; nay, he was cheerful; for he had saved Madeleine from a watery grave, and she was now doubly dear to him.

The student was hatless and coatless, but he cared not for that, and he shook his proud head defiantly, as the rude wind flung his long hair, wildly, in his face.

Thus they drifted, and still they saw no welcoming light, no hope!

Further and further from shore the helpless yacht was carrying them. But just then—yes—a bright red light shot around the jutting spit ahead, and then a rocket flashed across the black sky; then another. Then came the heavy scream of a steamer's whistle, booming over the rush of the waves and the roar of the wind.

Nearer the light! nearer the darting rockets! nearer the friendly whistles!

At last the dark, looming outlines of the steamer came dimly into view, her decks thronged; from those decks loud, anxious murmurs and halloes were borne, over the waters.

The red lantern at the black bow flashed over the wrecked yacht, and then Fenton Thorne raised high his voice and sent forth a frenzied cry.

In a moment a cheer went up from a hundred throats on that dark steamer's decks. The paddles ceased to move, and the craft forged slowly ahead. Then the letters on her bright, glowing lantern shone out clear, and Fenton Thorne read the name: "CHICOPPEE."

"Heaven be praised!" murmured the young man, and he would have slipped with his burden, from exhaustion, into the water, had not, at that moment, a sinewy hand grasped him with a vice-like grip.

ments elapsed, when John appeared at the door, in answer to the summons, rubbing his eyes vigorously.

"Ah! John—sleepy? Well—send my daughter here."

"Why, Miss Madeleine, sir, has been to bed these two hours!" said the domestic, staring at his master.

The old man glanced at the clock again; then he muttered:

"Ah, yes! I forgot. Well, it does not matter; tell Martha to awaken her, and bid her come to me, here. I must see her; she can sleep late in the morning." So spoke the old father.

With a look of sleepy wonderment, John turned and left the apartment.

In ten minutes, Madeleine, hastily attired in an evening wrapper, her fair hair, loose and unfettered, falling over her shoulders, entered the room. There was a wondering, puzzled look upon her face.

"Well, father?" she asked, tremulously.

"Yes, my daughter; close the door—that to the entry likewise, and stuff a handkerchief in the keyhole."

"Why, father, what—"

"Do as I bid you, Madeleine; John is somewhat given to curiosity."

The maiden obeyed at once, and resumed her seat.

"Nearer, Madeleine," said the father.

The girl drew her chair close to his.

"Now, Madeleine, listen," said the old merchant, in a low tone, looking steadily at the girl, as her full, frank eyes were lifted, trustfully, to his face.

"I have a weighty secret to confide to you, my child. But, Madeleine, do you love—Fenton Thorne?"

The question was blunt and sudden, and the girl blushed deeply.

"Yes, father, I do," was her reply.

"Do you love him well enough to become his wife?" continued the old man, looking straight into her warm, blushing face.

"Yes, father, I—I believe I do; but we are both too young yet," was the reply, in a low, soft tone.

"True, true, my child!" exclaimed the old merchant, in a disappointed tone. "But, Fenton Thorne's father is very rich—Fenton will be in time!"

These words were spoken as if the speaker was communing with himself.

"What were you saying, papa?" asked the maiden, who had but imperfectly heard the words.



THE OCEAN BRIDE.

real risk; he would not have carried away a reef-point, or split a seam in his sail.

For the sake of humanity, however, we must believe that the young man could not avoid the collision, on account of the fugitive rope and the jammed rudder. Especially must we accept this explanation, as, after getting control of the whipping sheet, and the mastery, once more, of the rudder, he readily and skillfully wore ship, and commenced beating gallantly back toward the scene of the disaster.

He had hardly come about, however, and brought his boat close in the eye of the howling wind, when, suddenly, a white squall darted out from the land, blowing the tumbling snow-caps far and wide, like feathers in the air.

Ralph Ross was a good sailor; he had shown himself to be such, and, whatever were his intentions in returning to the spot where the collision had occurred, it is very certain he dared not wait for the squall to strike him. He jibed at once, at imminent risk of capsizing, and scudded away toward the city, the lights of which were now to be seen twinkling in the darkness, far ahead.

The man had left the unfortunates to their fate; perhaps he could not do otherwise. It could not, indeed, be expected that he would endeavor to fight his way back in the face of the scurrying squall.

The night deepened, and still there came no welcoming light, glancing over the troubled, tossing waters; no glimmer to cheer the lonely ones on the wreck, for the gallant "Bay State" was a wreck. Her large sail, wet and sogged through and through, held the craft flat on her broadside; she could neither right herself or sink.

This was fortunate; for, besides affording a firm, sure support—which it would not have done, had it entirely capsized—it kept the rushing waters clear from the hole which the heavy bow of the "Two Boys" had stove into her timbers.

When the boats had come in contact, and before the little "Bay State" had gone over, Fenton Thorne had sprung to Madeleine's side. The maiden's face was white with terror, but she had clung confidently around the sinewy form of him who was to her her all-in-all.

In another moment, a huge wave had struck them, and, in each other's embrace, they sunk beneath the mad waters. Then they arose, and for a time Fenton Thorne was a very Hercules.

There tossed the helpless yacht, drifting away from him. With one or two vigorous strokes the young man was in the midst of the floating rigging; in a moment his right

"Saved! saved!" echoed from the crowded steamer, as Madeleine Fleming and Fenton Thorne were lifted aboard.

And the hand that did this giant's task was that of Stephen Smith, the Kentuckian. And old Arthur Fleming, as he once more held his daughter to his bosom, sunk, fainting, on the deck of the steamer.

"I did my best to avert the disaster, and to save you," said Ralph Ross, advancing from the crowd. "But the main-sheet shone out clear, and Fenton Thorne read the name: 'CHICOPPEE.'"

He had hardly come about, however, and brought his boat close in the eye of the howling wind, when, suddenly, a white squall darted out from the land, blowing the tumbling snow-caps far and wide, like feathers in the air.

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There tossed the helpless yacht, drifting away from him. With one or two vigorous strokes the young man was in the midst of the floating rigging; in a moment his right

"Nothing of special importance, my child. But listen, Madeleine," and his voice suddenly assuming a strange, business-like tone, struck the maiden harshly. "Do not interrupt me, but listen well. . . . People say and think that I am rich; you think the same my child. Well, I have been rich; I have been worth my hundred-thousands. Start not, Madeleine. I have been unfortunate, my daughter; I have been unwise in indulging bad paper, and to-night, though I have been honest to the last, I am BANKRUPT. Speak not, my child; let me tell you all."

"I am ruined!—am so poor, indeed, that I can not celebrate your approaching birthday! This house which shelters us, and which is so princely in its apartments, is, in the eyes of law and right, the property of others! But listen, Madeleine, yet more. You remember the old Rover—my gallant tea-ship of other days, the one I retained of all my many when I was rich? Well, she was good-luck ship, and I kept her. Now, by bending every effort, I have gathered up a sum of money—not large, it is true—but it will serve me. I intend to risk that money, every cent of it, in the Rover again! Do not interrupt me, Madeleine. I have seen Captain Kelson and told him my secret. 'Tis safe with him, my child. He consents willingly, ever gladly, to make the trip for me; he has already secured his mates and a good crew. On the Rover now rests my last, my only hope. If she is successful, and in a year hence returns safe to port with a rich, glorious cargo, I—I shall be saved! But, oh, heavens! should she fail! No, no! She can not, must not, fail!"

It was two o'clock in the morning before that midnight conference was ended, between father and daughter.

The policemen on their beats noted, and watched the half-hidden light that night, which flashed through the crevices of the shutters of the Fleming mansion, and they shrugged their shoulders and wondered that the old merchant, now so rich, should thus invade the "wee sma' hours."

There were other lights, too, burning late that same night in the good city of Providence. One shone from a room—the snug little back sitting-room in Welcome Hoxley's mansion in Prospect street.

This light, too, was half-concealed, though some of its rays managed to struggle out in the dark night.

But that light shone more brightly on a singular group which took counsel together in that little back sitting-room of Welcome Hoxley, the manufacturer, than it did on the wondering policemen outside.

CHAPTER XVI.

LATE WALKERS.

In the early part of the same evening, when such late lights were burning in the mansions of Arthur Fleming and Welcome Hoxley, Myra Hoxley and Ralph Ross walked, arm in arm, around the dark waters of the Cove.

The Cove is one of the objects to be seen in Providence. We need not describe this beautiful sheet of water, surrounded by its grateful shade trees, only to those who have never seen it. We will simply state that the Cove is a large, artificial lake, formed of the waters of the upper Narragansett. It is about a mile in circumference, it being an almost perfect circle. It is walled in, all around, by massive masonry, this being studded by an ornamental iron railing.

In winter the frozen surface of the Cove is jocund with the ringing steel; in summer, its placid bosom bears many love-laden barges in joyous, sportive contest.

It was early in the evening, the lamps on Westminster street had just been lighted; the large reflector in front of the "What Cheer" restaurant had but then flashed forth its cheerful rays on the crowded streets; but around the Cove no brilliant gas flung its gladsome beams. All was dark and gloomy.

Myra Hoxley and Ross had just cleared the shade of the immense depot and were walking with a rapid stride along the quiet path bordering directly on the Cove. Their conversation was earnest and unrestrained. At length they reached the little bridge, half-way around the Cove, and directly opposite the depot they halted.

"Come, Ralph," said Myra, as if tired and impatient, "come, let us sit down. We have arranged all well. I only hope the plan will not miscarry." She seated herself languidly on the rustic bench. Ralph Ross followed her example.

Only a moment passed in silence.

"For the soul of me, Myra, I can not see how all this is going to benefit your cause! Since the revelation, you know, I have no longer any desires in that quarter! Not I!"

Myra mused before she answered.

"You may not see it, Ralph, but—I can!"

And even should I not be benefited by it, why I'll enjoy a brief triumph, anyway. I can smile with satisfaction at the rage and anxiety of Fenton Thorne!"

"But that will not gain him to you, Myra."

"I care not—yet—I do care! Alas! alas! sometimes, Ralph, I wish the 'Bay State' and her passengers had gone to the bottom, both of them! Then this terrible struggle now going on in my breast, would at least be over!"

"Would that indeed be a satisfaction, Myra? Rather, is it not now a part of your existence, that you may win the love of that upstart, Fenton Thorne?"

"He is no upstart, Ralph, though, I confess, I am beginning—just beginning, mind you!—to hate the fellow. He treats me with such cool contempt. And then, that forever-intermeddling friend of his, Stephen Smith—I despise the fellow! and—and, Ralph, you are strong and active; why do you not cane this brown-faced Kentuckian—for—for my sake?"

Ralph had good reasons for not caning Stephen Smith, but he simply answered:

"Nonsense, nonsense, Myra! Smith has never—never harmed me, why should I interfere with him?"

"Is that your only reason, Ralph? However, let it pass! We must try our game! Madeleine Fleming must—well, you know what—for a time. Whether or not harm befall her, I care not! I have saved enough from my father's stunted pin-money to pay whatever expenses may be incurred. If we can manage this, why, I can see what may be done to gain Fenton Thorne."

"You mean Fenton Thorne's money, Myra?" said Ross, sarcastically. The girl did not even wince.

"As you will, Ralph," she said; "but that matters not. If this fails with the girl, I'll poison her to him, and I'll scruple at no means which promise success. What care I for reputation, veracity, fair-dealing, or anything else? Once arouse the girl's jealousy—I know what it is, Ralph—give her good grounds for this jealousy, and trust me for a love-sick woman's anger! Then all will be well!"

"I favor the other plan, anyway, Myra; and Tim Smooth is wondrously like the fellow."

"In every thing save all that makes a man! But, Tim Smooth, poor fool that he is, will still be useful to us, and we must use him. For a few paltry dollars he is ours!"

"Can he act his part?"

"Trust me for training him! But we will—" her voice sunk to a lower key, as a man's steps were heard approaching. Then a tall figure walked leisurely by. The walker did not observe the quiet sitters; if he did, he chose not to notice them.

When he had passed, Myra turned to Ralph, and said, in a low voice:

"That was Stephen Smith; I am sure! I know his footfall—the meddlesome busy-body!"

"Fortunate thing he did not hear us, Myra!" said Ross, with a feeling of relief.

"I care not for him! I defy him! But, Ralph, listen well again to your instructions. Remember, if all goes—" her voice again sunk into a low, inaudible, confidential whisper.

It was Stephen Smith who had walked by so leisurely; but when he was once out of earshot, the good fellow paused, and gave one of his peculiar low whistles; and then—yes, it must be confessed—he uttered a very forcible exclamation. Polite or otherwise, it seemed to relieve Stephen. That exclamation had not the faintest reference to Myra Hoxley or Ross; but then Stephen instantly strode on, by the depot, thence across to Westminster street, over the bridge up into College street; and his stride was not slow or halting.

Beyond a doubt, the young man was very serious. In a few moments he was hid beneath the heavy gloom of the trees bordering the narrow street. But Stephen Smith did not enter the college grounds.

The night wore on. The late lights were still burning in that little back sitting-room of the rich manufacturer.

Beyond a doubt, that was strange company for Welcome Hoxley, those two rough-looking men who sat with him around a table, engaged in anxious and evidently a very interesting conversation.

Welcome Hoxley, his face aglow, it seemed, with anticipated, prayed-for triumph, his hands jingling nervously the heavy seals of his watch-chain, stood at one end of the room, near the head of the table.

His two visitors were conferring together. At length they looked up; one of them said:

"Well, Mr. Hoxley, you can count on us, but first, sir, swear solemnly that, whatever comes of this, our names will not be mentioned."

"I swear—I'll swear, my men, of course—of course!" said the old man, hastily.

"After hunting about for a moment or so, he found a small Testament.

"I swear, by the Holy Evangelists, never to implicate either of you in the matter!" and he kissed the book without flinching.

"Very good, sir. We accept your terms, and we will gain your ends! Once gone, you shall never hear again of—"

"H'sh! 'sh! no names!" interrupted the old man, glancing around him nervously.

"You are cautious, sir, but you are wise. But now, sir, we'll sign the agreement, and then would like to handle the gold—the *hash-money*, sir."

Old Hoxley hesitated; but it was only a momentary hesitation. From a drawer in the table he took two papers.

"Sign both," he said, spreading them out on the table; "you two will keep one, I the other."

The men did as directed. Then the old manufacturer took from a safe a leather bag of heavy weight, and slowly counted over the glittering pile, and then, with a half-sigh, shoved it toward the men. They quickly secured the money about their persons, and, without a word, took their hats and coarse overcoats, stole down the stairs, and noiselessly out into the street.

They hurriedly took their way down Prospect street, toward the southern wharves.

Scarcely had they gone twenty paces, when, directly opposite the Hoxley mansion, a tall form slowly emerged from the gloom and followed on after.

On went the two mysterious men and the one who hung upon their footsteps. At last the wharves were reached.

Feeling around for awhile in the gloom, one of the men drew in by a painter's ship's small boat. They lost no time, but, jumping aboard, let drop the oars and pulled directly out into the bay.

A quarter of a mile from shore a stately ship, with tall and tapering spars, showed like a giant speer in the night. The man who had so persistently followed after the others paused.

"Strange—very strange!" he said; "the old-man keeps bad company, I am afraid!" and he turned to retrace his steps.

As he paused under a solitary lamp-light, the flickering beams revealed the very serious features of Stephen Smith, the Kentuckian.

(To be continued—commenced in No. 44.)

Murdered by Fate.

BY COL. PRENTISS INGRAHAM.

"You say, Hal, that a man may kill another in battle, or by accident, and that no haunting memories will come to him? I differ with you; I know it is not so."

The speaker, Ward Childs, was a slight but gracefully formed man, of apparently thirty years of age, with a face of almost womanly beauty; but there was an expression in his deep-blue eyes which proved there was no lack of courage or determination in them to do or dare any thing. He had served with distinction through the war of the Union, winning several promotions upon the field; but, except that he had been left an orphan, with some means, at fourteen, and was receiving his education in Europe at the breaking out of the war, and had immediately returned to America and entered the army, little was known of him.

He visited New York after the close of the struggle, and securing pleasant apartments furnished them handsomely, and devoted his time to amusements of various kinds. Though a pet in society, and having many acquaintances, Ward Childs had few intimate friends, for I knew of but one other besides Hal Green—the person to whom the remark which opens this sketch, was addressed—and myself. Hal Green and myself had dined with Ward on that day, and, while smoking our cigars after dinner, the conversation had turned upon pangs of conscience caused by taking the life of a human being. Captain Green was a brave officer, had served the Union faithfully, and was known to have killed two men in a saber conflict; and his remark that he "had done it in self-defense, and did not allow it to trouble him," was the cause of Ward's reply.

The gallant captain puffed a ring of smoke into the air, and questioned:

"What think you, colonel?"

"I agree with Childs," I answered, "for I believe it impossible under any and all circumstances, to send a fellow-creature's soul into eternity, and not feel it; for, no matter how wicked the slain might be, there is some one that loved him, some one that will miss him; and, besides, you have taken life, and that thought alone must haunt you. I speak generally, not personally, Hal."

"I understand you, colonel," was the captain's pleasant response, and for a moment there was silence, which was at length broken by Ward, who said, quietly:

"I dislike to be egotistical, but will tell you of an incident in my own life, merely *pour passer le temps*. Throwing aside his cigar he began: "I believe you both know that I am a Tennessean, and that I lived there until my eighteenth year, when I went to Europe."

"Around my old home there were many caves in the mountains, and it used to be my delight to explore them, accompanied by my faithful attendant, a negro boy. One evening I was returning alone from a hunt, when a storm overtook me, and, running for shelter to a rocky point projecting from the mountain, I saw a small cave and sat down in its entrance to protect me from the rain."

"I dropped to sleep, being very tired, and some time after was awakened by an indescribable feeling that some unseen danger was near me. Night had come on; the storm was still raging, and I felt exceedingly uncomfortable, when I was rendered more so by a loud shriek, yell or howl, for I do not know how to express what I heard, coming from within the cavern."

At first I was paralyzed, but then was reassured, when I knew that it must be a panther which I had hemmed in in his retreat. I placed my rifle in position, and, peering intently into the dark recesses of the cave,

I saw two glittering eyes turned upon me. I was a good shot, so determined to risk it, and, raising my rifle, I aimed deliberately and fired. A low moan followed, and after assuring myself that I had killed the object I fired at, I crawled slowly toward the spot with my knife in my hand. Feeling about on the damp ground my hand touched something soft and warm. I clutched it, and—horror! *my hand covered the face of a human being!*

"How I got home I do not know, but I told my story, was taken down with delirium, and, upon getting well, was told that I had killed an old man, a maniac, who had lived in his retreat in the mountain for years. He was a harmless old man, whom I often had fed and felt for his misery."

"Soon after I sailed for Europe, and, though his death at my hands was an accident, that deed haunts me night and day. Though he was a lunatic, miserable and suffering, whose death was a release from torment—though my act was purely a mistake, which any other person might have made—though I mourned over it with sorrow, deep and sincere—I still feel in my heart the heavy load of human blood. Never will it cease to weigh me down. Never take a human life, my friends," he added, solemnly—"no, not even to save your own."

RED ARROW, The Wolf Demon; OR, THE QUEEN OF THE KANAWHA.

BY ALBERT W. AIKEN.
AUTHOR OF "ACE OF SPADES," "SCARLET HAND,"

CHAPTER XXXIX. THE TOTEM OF THE RENEGADE.

A SINGLE glance at the dark forms that filled the doorway, and the hearts of the three sunk within them.

They were prisoners to the Shawnees! At the head of the painted warriors was Simon Girty, the renegade.

Girty's eyes lit up with fiend-like joy as he gazed upon his captives.

"A keen she-devil you are, to snatch the game out of my hands; but did you think that you could escape from me so easily?" he cried, addressing Kate.

The warm blood flushed the face of the "Queen," as she listened to the insolent words of the white Indian.

"You are in my power; no human force can snatch you from me," he continued, exultingly. "A nice trick it was, to pretend to watch my prisoner for me, and then aid her to escape in the darkness! But I tracked you, though, cunning as you are. A fit daughter of a worthy father; but, maybe, my turn will come now. Chiefs, and he turned to the warriors that filled the doorway, "which of you wants this dainty brown maid for a squaw? I'll give her to one, for her fate is in my hands now."

All the fire in Kate's nature shone in the lurid flash of her dark eyes.

"Take care, Simon Girty!" she cried, in anger. "If my father is not man enough to protect me from insult, my rifle will."

"Your father is dead, girl, or mighty near it," returned Girty, scornfully. "When I discovered the trick that you and he played upon me, I sunk my tomahawk in his skull and let out his fool's brains."

"My father slain!" cried Kate, in horror.

"I reckon that there isn't much life left in him by this time. He dared to cross my will, the hound that he was, and I struck him to his death," said Girty, fiercely.

Kate felt that she was indeed at Girty's mercy.

"And for you, my pretty white-bird," and the renegade turned to Virginia as he spoke, "did you fancy that you could escape the fate that I marked out for you? You will learn in time that my blows seldom fail."

"Oh, have you no mercy?" cried Virginia, in despair.

"What mercy did your father have when his lashes tore my back, long years ago?" demanded the renegade, fiercely. "The mercy that he showed to me I will show to him and his. I'll tear his heart as his punishment to my flesh. When he learns your shameful fate, then, and not till then, will the debt of vengeance be canceled. How he will curse his evil fortune when he learns that his dainty daughter—the apple of his eye, the pride of his old age—is the victim of the renegade, Simon Girty!" and then he laughed loud and long.

"Accursed villain!" cried Winthrop, suddenly, unable to restrain his fury; and quick as thought, he flung himself upon the renegade, regardless of the overpowering number of foes that surrounded him.

With a single heavy blow between the eyes, he beat the renegade, like a log, to the ground; but ere he could pursue his advantage further, the Shawnee warriors dashed themselves upon him. Ten to one, Winthrop was speedily overcome and securely bound.

The renegade rose to his feet, his eyes glaring like a demon's, and a livid mark upon his face, where the knuckles of the young man had bruised the skin.

"You shall pay dearly for that blow!" Girty cried, between his clenched teeth. "You shall die at the torture-stake, a thousand deaths all in one. The tomahawks of the Indians will cut the flesh from your bones, even while you are a living man. You will cry aloud for death to come and end your misery. And in your last moments the thought will come that this fair girl—whom I guess you love—will be wholly in my power—a helpless victim to my caprices. And as you die in lingering tortures, I will stand by your side and taunt you till death releases you from my power."

Words can but feebly describe the waked wrath of the renegade.

Winthrop faced him undauntedly.

"It suits your cowardly nature better to taunt a helpless prisoner than to face a free man. I do love this girl, and the thought that she is helpless in your power—demon that you are—gives me greater pain than can all the fire and torture of the red devils with whom you claim kindred. I am your captive. Look well to me; see that I do not escape from you, for it would cost you your life if I should ever again regain my freedom."

Every muscle in the young man's form swelled with indignation as he spoke.

"When you cease to be my captive, death will claim you," replied Girty, grimly.

Kate looked around her. She saw no avenue of escape. She felt that they were hopelessly lost.

"Come," said Girty; "but, first, bind the wrists of these two squaws."

The Indians obeyed his order.

"Now for your future home, the Shawnee village!" Girty cried, in triumph.

The Indians and their prisoners, led by the renegade, passed through the door of the cabin and stood within the little clearing that surrounded the house.

Then forth from the timber came the Shawnee brave, Noc-a-tah.

He came straight to Girty.

"Well, chief, what is it?" asked the renegade. He conjectured from the Indian's manner that he was the bearer of some important tidings.

"Your white brother has gone to the land of shadows—he sends this totem to you."

Then the Indian drew from his pocket the piece of birch bark whereon Kendrick had, with his blood and the pointed twig, traced his dying words.

"Dead, eh?" said Girty, with a sneer. "A totem to me? What can it be?"

Then the renegade took the piece of bark and endeavored to read the lines.

Rudely were the letters formed, for Dave Kendrick could boast of but little scholarship.

The renegade puzzled over the writing. Suddenly the meaning flashed upon him. A gleam of fierce joy swept over his dark face.

By all the fiends, this is double vengeance!" he cried, in glee. "Chief, in Chillicothe, thou shalt have the best scalping-knife that I own in payment for this precious totem."

Noc-a-tah gravely nodded, and then disappeared within the thicket.

Girty turned to where the two girls stood, side by side.

The maidens wondered at his searching look.

"What a blind idiot I have been not to have noticed it before," he muttered, "and yet, I remember, now, the face of the girl did look familiar to me when I first met her in the Shawnee village. To think of my vengeance slipping through my fingers, and then, after long years, being put again within my hands! There's fate in this. And Kendrick, too, he thought, by this dying declaration, to strike a blow at me, even from the grave. He thought both the girls were safely out of my hands. He little dreamed when I should read his 'totem'—as the savage termed it—that the two he referred to in it would be helpless prisoners in my power. Could he have foreseen that, he would have cut off his hand rather than divulge to me what he has here written."

Then the renegade laughed long and silently. His captives wondered at his glee.

"You risked your life to save this girl; why did you do it?" he asked of Kate, suddenly.

"Because she was helpless in the power of a cruel monster. My heart told me to save her, even at the risk of my own life," replied Kate, promptly.

"And you, girl, are you not grateful to this maiden, who has tried so hard to save you from me?" he said to Virginia.

"Yes, I am very grateful," replied the girl, wondering at the question.

"Their hearts don't tell 'em," muttered the renegade. "The old adage is a fable; blood is not thicker than water. Virginia, years ago I stole your eldest sister and left her to perish in the forest. This was the first blow that I aimed at your father. Now see how strangely fate sometimes disposes of things in this world. The child that I left to die, did not die, but was saved, and has grown to womanhood, and I, all the time, thinking her dead. Girls, can you guess the truth? The man that saved and reared the child was Dave Kendrick, the renegade!"

The truth flashed upon the maidens in an instant.

"Sister!" cried Virginia, warmly; but the bonds upon their wrists forbade further greeting.

"Yes, she is your sister. Kate, you are Augusta Treveling, the eldest daughter of the old General," said Girty, and a triumphant smile was upon his face.

The smile made the two girls tremble.

"The hound that I gave to the worms never told the secret to me, but, dying, he wrote it here on this piece of bark. This was his vengeance," and Girty laughed, loudly. "It will be pleasant news to the old General, your father, when he hears that both of his daughters are living, and both are in my power."

"Oh, man, have you no mercy?" plead Kate.

"Mercy?" cried the renegade, fiercely. "Ask it of the hungry wolf, the angry bear, or the red savage, when his knife is raised to slay! Expect mercy from all these, but expect none from the man whose skin is white but whose heart is red. Come; in Chillicothe you will meet your fate."

A broad sheet of flame, springing from the woods to the north of the little clearing, followed by the sharp report of a dozen rifles, answered the boast of the renegade.

Of the ten savages who had followed Girty's lead, seven lay wounded or dead, upon the earth.

From the timber came the ringing shout of the borderers, and a score or more of the settlers, headed by General Treveling and stout Jake Jackson, came with a rush into the clearing.

Girty, though badly wounded, and the unknown savages had fled at once.

Jake and fully one-half of the borderers followed in pursuit.

The captives were speedily released from their bonds.

"Let me give thanks to that Heaven that in its bounty has seen fit to give me back both my daughters to gladden the last years of an old man's life!" cried Treveling, in joy, as he folded his children to his heart.

The timely arrival of the settlers was easily explained. Noc-a-tah, the Shawnee chief, had faithfully kept the promise made to him by the renegade, and had first sought Point Pleasant and given the "totem" into the hands of the General.

The father's joy on learning that his eldest daughter lived can easily be imagined.

Jackson, who had seen the Indian depart, instantly counseled that he should be tracked, that the whereabouts of the rest of the Shawnees might be discovered.

The advice of the stout Indian-fighter had been followed, and the happy result was, the rescuing of Girty's victims.

Well might the aged father lift up his voice in joy.

CHAPTER XL.

THE WHITE DOG AND THE WOLF DEMON.

"He's a plucky young cuss, ain't he?" said Boone, in a whisper to Kenton, when

he heard the bold defiance of the Indian warrior.

"The Wolf Demon will make mince-meat out of him if he puts his claws onto him," replied Kenton, in the same cautious whisper that Boone had used.

"I wonder if the spook will come," said Boone.

"I reckon not; them things never come when they're expected. They allers take their own time," returned Kenton.

"How easy we could 'rub' him out now, eh?" Boone observed, suggestively.

"I'm afraid that it would bring a hull grist of his relations down on top of us, thick as skeeters in a swamp," said Kenton.

"That's so."

A movement on the part of the Indian put a stop to their conversation, and eagerly they bent their eyes upon him.

After pronouncing his warlike defiance, the warrior, with his tomahawk in one hand and his keen-edged scalping knife in the other, remained motionless as a bronze statue.

Full five minutes he waited.

His eager eye, quick and piercing as the eye of a hawk, surveyed the forest before him.

He heard each rustling leaf that stirred in obedience to the soft night-wind's commands; the noise of the pinions of the owl, winging its nocturnal flight through the dim aisles of the great, green wood; the cry of the tree-toad; the chirrup of the cricket, deep down in the earth. But, none of these stirred the senses of the Indian. He knew the voices of the night full well, for he was a child of the forest and had slept many an hour beneath the shadows of the spreading boughs.

He listened for a sound that he heard not—the tread of the great gray wolf, who wore the face of a man.

Impatient, the warrior uttered a guttural exclamation.

Again he addressed the silence and the gloom, called for the dread being to appear, at whose approach all living things of earth or air fled.

"The warrior is weary of waiting. If the Wolf Demon is in the thicket let him come forth. The White Dog will strip off his hide, or else the Wolf Demon shall take his scalp and mark the totem of the Red Arrow on his breast."

But the silence and the gloom replied not to the bold defiance.

After a pause of a few moments the warrior uttered a contemptuous exclamation.

"The Wolf Demon should wear the skin of the muskrat; he skulks in the dark and fears to meet his foe face to face."

The chief turned upon his heel and thrust his scalping-knife into his girdle as if to depart.

One single step he made, and then a sound fell upon his ears that made him pause; made him draw the keen-edged knife again from his belt; made him prepare for battle.

The quick ear of the Indian—trained from infancy to note the noises of the forest, the plain and river—heard a stealthy step proving through the thicket.

The noise came from behind him. Quick as thought the warrior turned and faced the point from whence the noise proceeded.

No form stepped from the timber into the little glade, whereon the soft moonbeams fell, but the Indian still heard the sound of the stealthy steps.

The steps seemed to come no nearer, and yet the sound grew no fainter.

Whoever was within the wood was circling around the Indian, as if to attack him in the rear and by surprise.

The chief guessed the truth, and as the unknown foe moved, he moved. Slowly he turned, keeping his face always in the direction from whence came the sound of the steps.

The two borderers, concealed in the thicket, watched the movements of the Indian with astonishment.

When he assumed the attitude of defense and drew again the knife, Boone nudged Kenton.

"He hears something," he whispered.

"Pears like it," Kenton replied.

And as they watched the Seneca, they too, heard the sound of stealthy steps approaching them.

They noted that, as the steps approached, the face of the chief seemed to follow the direction of the steps.

At once the Indian-fighters guessed the truth; guessed that the terrible Wolf Demon, lurking in the thicket, was circling around the chief, eager to spring upon him, unawares.

The stealthy steps came nearer and nearer to the concealed men.

Boone, stretched out so near to Kenton that he touched him, felt that the stout borderer was trembling like an aspen leaf; and, to speak the truth, the blood in Boone's veins was running cold with horror.

There, not a dozen paces from them, within the thicket, they saw the terrible form of the Wolf Demon.

With stealthy step he moved through the wood, his eyes glaring like coals of fire, upon the Indian-warrior. In his paw he carried the fatal tomahawk that had brained so many Shawnee chieftains.

The terrible form was moving in a circle around the warrior. But the Indian was on his guard, and guided by the sound of the stealthy steps, kept his front always to his foe.

The Wolf Demon completed the circle, and then, as if fully satisfied that he could not take the warrior by surprise, came slowly from the thicket and stood within the open space, not, though, in the soft light of the moonbeams, but half hid by the shadows thrown by the forest monarchs that hemmed in the little glade.

The keen eyes of the Indian detected the appearance of the terrible form.

The light of fierce determination shone upon the face of the Shawnee warrior, and firmly he grasped his weapons and waited for the onset of the foe.

Boone and Kenton, in breathless suspense, watched from their leafy covert, eager to see the issue of the contest that was, apparently, so near at hand.

A few seconds only the Wolf Demon paused within the friendly shadows of the wood; then, with the swiftness of forked lightning, he leaped upon the Shawnee warrior.

Bravely the Indian met the assault. With his tomahawk he parried the blow aimed at his head, and, at the same moment, drove his long knife, up to its hilt, in the side of the phantom foe; but, the glittering blade met no flesh in its passage, and not a single drop of blood dimmed the brightness of the steel.

The thrust of the Shawnee chieftain cost him dear, for, ere he could withdraw his

knife again, the tomahawk of the Wolf Demon descended upon his head. By a quick motion of his own ax he partly parried the blow, but the force of the stroke bore him over, backward, to the earth.

With a howl of triumph, the Wolf Demon planted his foot upon the warrior's breast, and the glittering tomahawk gleamed before his eyes, raised to give the death-blow.

The warrior felt that he was lost.

The death-note of his nation broke from his lips.

Then, forth from the timber, from the direction in which the Indian village lay, came the Shawnee girl, Le-a-pah.

She had arrived upon the scene of conflict just in time to witness the discomfiture of her lover.

With outstretched arms and a cry of horror—regardless of her own life—she rushed forward to save her lover from the edge of the fatal tomahawk, which was raised to drink his blood.

The paw of the Wolf Demon which clutched the tomahawk, remained poised in the air as the girl advanced. The blow descended not upon the unprotected head of the prostrate red-man.

The phantom form, motionless as one of the forest oaks, glared upon the Indian girl with its eyes of fire as if struck dumb with horror.

It was a startling tableau.

The scouts looked on with awe-struck eyes. They expect each instant to see the tomahawk descend, and the Indian girl fall lifeless at the blow.

Steadily for a few moments the Demon form glared at the girl, and then, taking its foot from the breast of the down-trodden chief, it retreated backward with slow steps toward the forest; still, however, keeping its eyes upon the face of the girl as though under the influence of some terrible enchantment.

The Indian chief, hardly able to realize that he was saved from the death that but a moment before seemed so certain, made no effort to rise, but appeared transfixed with horror.

The Wolf Demon gained the shadow of the thicket, and then—as if the spell that had bound him had been broken—with a terrible cry, that rang through the dim aisles of the forest like the wail of a lost soul, doomed forever to eternal fires, he vanished amid the darkness.

The cry of the Wolf Demon froze the blood of his hearers with horror.

The girl, with a sob of terror, sunk down by the side of the young chieftain.

Rising, the Shawnee warrior tenderly lifted the little form of Le-a-pah from the green sward.

It did not require a close inspection to determine their character. They were the marks of snow-shoes, and showed the trail of quite a large party of Indians, traveling from north to south, or at right-angles to my own course.

Judging from appearances, there being no drift in the trail, I concluded that the band had passed within the hour, and were probably at that moment not very far off.

A moment's thought determined me to follow the trail, at least a sufficient distance to make sure of their whereabouts, as I intended camping near by for the night, and it would not do to have them for too close neighbors.

For more than a mile the broad trail preserved a due southerly course, down the valley, but at its lower extremity, and at a point, where the band had halted for consultation, as was evident from the trampled snow, it suddenly divided, the larger portion going off more to the westward, while the remainder, four in number, struck out to the south-east.

I did not at all like the appearance of things. This dividing of forces looked very much as though it was done to cover, or "beat up," as much country as possible. They would, the larger part, again split and send out another scout. They might return over the same ground, for it was plainly a hunting-party, and then my chances would be somewhat doubtful.

The thought determined my course of action.

I would follow the trail of the small party, discover their object, and, if necessary, and the opportunity was good, attack.

The course taken led across another and smaller valley, over a low range of hills, and so on into a narrow and rugged defile that cut into the larger range beyond, and known as the Red Canon.

By this time night was rapidly falling, though, as the sun went down, the full moon rose bright and clear, flooding the mountains with her mellow light, which, reflected from the snow, lit up the scene with almost noon-day distinctness.

Within the canon, however, the shadows lay heavy and dark, and into it the trail led.

Cautiously feeling my way over the rugged path, peering round corners, and over fallen rocks, I advanced for more than half a mile before I perceived any indications of the Indians' presence. At a point where the canon made an abrupt bend, almost at right-angles, I paused, to take more careful observations, and was rewarded by discovering the faint reflection of a redder light than that of the moon, upon the face of a cliff that reared its lofty front just beyond the curve.

The party had camped for the night, and I was within striking distance.

But, should I strike? and if so, how? were the points to be considered.

Without alarming the enemy, I gained the angle, and cautiously looked around me.

I like to have betrayed my presence by the involuntary start I gave, so unexpectedly close was the fire to where I stood, but, fortunately for me, the Indians were busy with their jerked buffalo, and so took no heed of the slight noise I made.

The position of the camp was in every way favorable for a sudden and successful assault.

The fire had been built against the left-hand side of the gulch, just at the foot of a cliff, some ten or twelve feet in height, the top of which I saw could be reached by retracing my steps a few yards and climbing around a narrow ledge that ran in the rear of the larger cliff, at whose base I stood.

The Indians were closely grouped, or squatted around the fire, eating their tough buffalo, and striving to get some warmth into their half-naked bodies.

They were Jacarilla Apaches—a tribe I had good reason to remember, and to whom I felt little disposed to show mercy. Of this I will speak hereafter.

My plan of action was quickly decided upon, and I at once proceeded to carry it into effect.

Laying aside all cumbersome articles, and retaining only my six-shooter and knife, I retraced my way to a point where the cliff could be scaled, and at once mounted to the ledge above.

The facilities for approach were even better than I expected, and in five minutes I stood directly above the Indian camp.

Panning a few moments to gather breath and steady myself—for I knew that a single misstep would turn the tables and make me the victim—I dropped upon hands and knees, and cautiously approaching the edge of the cliff looked over.

The Indians had not altered their positions in the least, and again drawing back out of sight, I muffled the revolver in the skirt of my coat, and drew back the hammer.

Once more I crept to the brink, leaned forward, and selecting the warrior who seemed to be the leader, sent a ball crashing through his brain.

Almost before the sound had reached their startled ears, and before either of the remaining three could gain his feet, I fired again, and another fell in his tracks.

But, in my eagerness and haste, I nearly lost my life.

Intent only on firing as rapidly as possible—for I knew if one escaped, I would be beset by the whole party in less than an hour, perhaps—I heedlessly leaned too far over, lost my balance, and, when just on the point of emptying my third chamber, fell headlong between the two affrighted warriors.

An Indian is quick to recover from surprise, and hence I had scarcely touched the earth before they leaped upon me.

I instinctively fired as I lay, and fortunately the ball took effect in the shoulder of one assailant, and though not a mortal wound, crippled him badly.

I need not dwell upon the fight. A certain amount of struggling, kicking, knife-thrusting and dodging, make up the whole, and the end is always the defeat of one or the other party.

In this case I proved, after a long and deadly struggle, the victor, and finally stood, bleeding from half a dozen slight knife-wounds, looking down upon the bodies of four wretches, who, in life, wished for nothing on earth so much as a white man's scalp.

I had to lay by for some days, and was much surprised one morning, to see Uncle "Grizzly" stalk into camp.

The old fellow had got uneasy about me, left his camp on the Gila, and in crossing the mountains, stumbled on my trail—no snow having fallen since I passed—and run me to earth in the Jacarilla's camp.

THE VOICES AT THE THRONE.

A little child,
A little meek-faced, quiet village child,
Sat singing, by her cottage door at eve,
A low, sweet Sabbath song. No human ear
Caught the faint melody. But even then
Behold the upturned aspect of the smile,
That wreathed her innocent lips the while they
breathed
The oft-repeated burden of the hymn,
"Praise God! praise God!"

A seraph by the Throne,
In the full glory stood. With eager hands,
He smote the golden harp-strings, till a flood
Of harmony on the celestial air
Welled forth unceasing. Then, with a great
voice,
He sang the "Holy, holy, evermore."
Lord God Almighty! And the eternal courts
Thrilled with the rapture, and the hierar-
chies,
Angels, and rapt archangel, throbbed and
burned
With vehement adoration. Higher yet
Rose the majestic anthem without pause,
Higher, with rich magnificence of sound
To its full strength; and still the infinite
Heaven

Rang with the "Holy, holy, evermore."
Till, trembling with excess of awe and love,
Each sequestered spirit sunk before the Throne
With a mute Hallelulah.
While the ecstatic song was at its height,
Stole in an alien voice—a voice that seemed
To float, float upward from some world afar,
A weak and child-like voice, faint, but how
sweet!
That blended with the seraph's rushing strain,
Ever as a fountain's music with the roar
Of the reverberate thunder. Loving smiles
Lit up the beauty of each angel's face.
At the new utterance: smiles of joy, that grew
More joyous yet, as ever and anon,
Was heard the simple burden of the hymn,
"Praise God! praise God!" and when the
seraph's song

Had reached its close, and o'er the golden lyre
Silence hung brooding—when the eternal courts
Rang with but echoes of his chant sublime,
Still through the abyssal space that wander-
ing voice

Came floating upward from its world afar,
Still murmured sweet the celestial air,
"Praise God! praise God!"

Cruiser Crusoe:
OR,
LIFE ON A TROPIC ISLE.

BY LAFAYETTE LAFORREST.

NUMBER FORTY-EIGHT.

To carry her to the huts, to wrap her in such things as they could spare, to rub her before a fire, was their first task; but only when some of the turtle-soup had been poured down her throat did she seem to revive. As it afterward proved, she was suffering from exhaustion and want of food, far more than from exposure to the merciless waves. When her eyes had opened once on twice and her heavy bosom began to inhale, with devouring eagerness, the air which apparently had left her forever, she was placed in the girls' hut, and there nursed by Polly and Ellen.

Not a word was said to her. All she was allowed to do was to be still, and occasionally, when she awoke, sip the savory and invigorating broth with which they continually supplied her.

Next day she was able to sit up; but when they began to question her, it was found that she could not understand one word that was said, while her language, though musical was unintelligible. How this wait from the sea had been cast upon those shores, whence she came, and what she was, must then, for the present, remain a mystery.

Polly looked upon her as her prize, and straightway got the negroes to build a special hut for the two, where she could, during every leisure moment she could bestow, devote herself to the education of the girl, whom my father and uncle declared to be no negress, but rather of some Arab race, though for want of a better name they called her the Indian girl.

Gentle, docile, and at the same time ingenious, she was very useful. She could make snares for birds; while, before she had been a month on the island, she had discovered a tree, which, by signs, she requested the negroes to cut down for her. They being now, in a way to be presently recorded, possessed of axes, did as she wished, and obeying her directions, cut it into a small canoe capable of holding, however, only one person.

No larger one appeared likely to be made on that island, from a circumstance which is peculiar to nearly all volcanic islands—the smallness of the trees. This canoe was portable, and proved for fishing purposes on the lake exceedingly useful.

But let me turn to the regular order of my narrative, which I only interrupted in order to narrate an incident which I had so much at heart to explain—how the Indian girl came among them.

My father, uncle, and Andrew, as soon as they had secured their valuable prey, continued their journey. It was satisfactory to know that the island abounded with animal food; but the elders did not feel satisfied until they discovered something which they could substitute for vegetables, without which it is well known that the human frame can not exist. Exclusive fish and animal diet will not suffice to support life.

As they advanced, they, however, did not seem to gain any thing by the change. Having become entangled unwillingly in a narrow gorge, they turned away from the more fertile and happy part of the island, and came upon an undulating land, with a desolate and wretched aspect, which was everywhere covered by a peaty soil and wiry grass, of one monotonous brown color. Here and there peaks and ridges of gray quartz rock broke through the smooth surface. In some of the valleys they saw small flocks of wild geese.

Finding that in this direction nothing was to be hoped for, they determined to turn to the right, cross the hills, and seek a more agreeable situation. The sides of the valley were very abrupt and steep; but after half an hour they were rewarded by reaching the summit, when they at once saw that they had reached a spot with scenery such as they might expect in that high latitude.

The slope of the hill was for some distance stony, and possessed of a very scanty soil; but as they neared the bottom, where flowed a small stream, they began to discover something like tropical vegetation; while on the opposite side of the water was an extensive wood. Following their way banks of the little river, when they made a discovery which was not without its pleasant side.

It was a small herd of wild cattle feeding on the edge of the stream. This was so far satisfactory that it appeared difficult to starve while so much meat was to be had; but the difficulty then occurred, how to take them; but as savages contrive to

capture them with ease without fire-arms, it was a kind of reflection on their manhood, they thought, to have any doubt on the subject.

Now, however, the idea uppermost within their minds was, how to cross in face of the herd, which was guarded by one old bull and two young ones, which at sight of them had retreated with the cows, while the old bull stood still with outstretched legs, as if ready for the conflict. They had never seen such a magnificent beast. It equaled in the size of its huge head and neck a Grecian marble sculpture.

Their wish was to cross over, and the three shouted, in the hope of terrifying him; but, though he tossed his horns and bellowed at the unusual sound of the human voice, it did not make him stir from his ground. To cross in face of him was impossible, as he would gore them with his horns. After some discussion, it was agreed to retreat into the bushes and make a large circuit to avoid him, though all were eager to have a taste of buffalo for supper that very night.

This, however, was out of the question while in presence of the bull. So they retreated—the savage beast bellowing and roaring all the time—until they were masked from him by shrubs and cactuses of an extraordinary character. Some of a spherical form were six feet in circumference, while the common cylindrical or branching ones were from twelve to fifteen feet high.

In this way they were completely lost to his view, and at the expiration of a quarter of an hour were able again to turn to the river, which was in this place interrupted by a cataract formed by a rift of fallen timber, stones, and earth; which enabled them to wade over, knee deep, to the opposite side. They were now in a wood with many bushes and creeping plants, that rendered their progress difficult.

It was proposed to halt here for the night if any kind of provision could be found, which, however, seemed difficult; so that they had to depend upon the pieces of roasted turtle which they had brought with them; and any thing more nauseous to the taste after awhile can scarcely be conceived. The disgust with which a man even scents turtle after living upon it—as on one or two occasions they and I had to do—for days together, is something incredible. Turtle steaks for breakfast, turtle steaks for dinner, turtle steaks for supper, would sicken even an Esquimaux.

While devising in their own minds what was to be done, my father, to whose teachings I owed so much of my own happiness and comfort, was looking around him. He could not help admiring a huge thistle or cardoon, which grew on the banks of the river, in many places right up to the edge of the forest. Approaching nearer, he examined it carefully, and his companions saw him smile.

"What is it?" said my uncle.

"Well, it is only a thistle or cardoon," replied my father, who was still looking up at the gigantic plant, which towered a foot over his head; "but, with cultivation, we can make a fine vegetable of it. Botany teaches me that the cardoon and the artichoke are the same thing. Cultivated, the one becomes the other; while, if artichokes are left to grow wild, they degenerate rapidly into pine, under common cardoon."

"But this is a matter for the future," observed my uncle.

"Not at all. All thistles are excellent vegetables, and until we can do better, these will keep off scurvy, which we have much to fear."

This discovery was, at all events, hopeful, but as not being of present use, was dismissed, while they looked around in search of a fit place for an encampment. With this view, they actually cut a way with their knives through the woods, until they reached a spot where the trees became leafier, being a kind of pine, under which no undergrowth is ever to be found.

It was something like the kauri pine of a large and celebrated island. How they could exist on this volcanic island was a mystery; but there they were, rearing their gigantic heads ninety and a hundred feet in the air, while many of them were thirty feet in circumference just about the roots. These trees are remarkable for their smooth cylindrical boles, which run up to a height of sixty and even ninety feet without a single branch. The crown of branches at the summit is out of all proportion small to the trunk, and the leaves themselves are small compared with the branches.

Here it was determined to camp, even if they were compelled to put up with turtle for their supper.

But such was not to be their fate.

Andrew, whom I have so briefly introduced, was once a midshipman in the British navy; but being of a somewhat sullen and disagreeable temperament, had been compelled to leave from the simple fact of his officers making his ship too hot to hold him. He then, as was the case with many discontented spirits, determined on emigrating to Virginia, a course pursued by very many gentlemen in those days, to the manifest and great advantage of His Majesty's colonies.

But his change of life not meeting with the approval of his friends, they had refused to assist him with money; so that he was compelled to take his passage on board the barque Reformation as second mate. Being, despite his defects, a gentleman of parts and education, he found some encouragement from the passengers in the cabin, which, however, would not have long continued if the voyage had been prosperous, his attentions to my cousin being by far too marked to be pleasant.

Then came that fearful continuance of storms, such as surely no ship ever met with before, and which I have so fully described in the opening part of my narrative. Under these circumstances, all rivalries and differences were laid aside, in order that we might each and all look to our common safety; and the awful trials we met with, and the catastrophe that ensued, cast out all such thoughts from the minds of all.

But when the final event took place, Andrew, instead of going with the yawl, contrived to slip into the long-boat, so as to remain with a family in which he felt so deep an interest.

Thus came that fearful explanation. While my father and uncle were looking about with great anxiety, in the hope of finding even a ground nut to vary the monotony of their supper, Andrew had stepped on one side to pick up some wood with which to make a fire. He had scarcely gone twenty yards, when he came back on the points of his feet, his left-hand fingers on his lips, and his right raised warningly.

"Whist!" he said, as soon as he was near; "don't stir to help me, and you shall have a fine supper to-night."

They signified assent; and then, with the utmost caution, proceeded to follow Andrew, who was a Scotchman, and had had in his boyish days some experience of deer-stalking. In the present instance, however, the object upon which he was about to exercise his skill was a solitary cow, which, apparently attracted by the luxuriant grass of a small clearing, had strayed from the herd, and was enjoying a rich feed.

The cow, which was a very plump and handsome animal, was about a dozen yards from the edge of the pine grove, its back turned to those who were hopeful enough to look upon it as fitting prey. Both my uncle and my father, the moment they discovered the object of Andrew's solicitude, concealed themselves behind a tree, so as to leave him entire liberty of action.

The young man acted with a degree of calm deliberation which gave evident token both of courage and wit. The cow's head was so placed as to face the wind, which came directly from it to them; which was an element of success which all who have to deal with wild animals will appreciate. Both in the case of deer and swans, especially the latter, this is essential; as they will, when the hunter is to windward, smell him half a mile off, and never even allow of approach sufficiently near to give a chance of a long shot.

Andrew stretched himself at full length upon the ground, so as to be wholly concealed by the high grass, which, like all such rank vegetation, arose almost to the back of the cow. Then his sharp knife—his only weapon—clenched between his teeth, he crawled toward the animal by such slow degrees as scarcely to allow the grass to indicate his motions.

The lookers-on were careful, by no act of theirs, to render his success uncertain. They did peer occasionally round the trunk of the huge tree, but with such extreme caution as to give no alarm. They, however, noticed with some anxiety that the cow was a little uneasy. Once or twice she flapped her tail, and even turned her head round, with a curious glance of her great eyes, but her intelligence failed seriously to alarm her. Still she moved slowly onward, as cows will do when feeding, scarcely ever standing quite still for more than half a minute.

It was a time of great anxiety. In a situation like that in which my friends were placed, the bare question of existence was the first thing to be thought of, and all felt that to be driven to the nauseous food against which their stomachs rebelled, was not only unpleasant, but detrimental to their health.

At this instant the cow gave a great cry, as Andrew, rising to his feet close at the animal's heels, and with a dexterity surprising in one who had long since deserted the sports of the field for the sea, gave the fatal touch with his knife to the main tendon of the hind leg.

The animal was powerless, and without almost any difficulty he drove the knife into the head of the spinal marrow, when the poor cow fell dead, as if struck by lightning.

Then his companions rushed forward and congratulated him warmly on his dexterity. Andrew replied with a mixture of pride and modesty becoming a successful hunter, and then bade them prepare a fire, while he got the elements of a supper, such as only a sailor having seen foreign parts could have dreamed of.

He cut good-sized pieces of the flesh with the skin to it, without the least intermixture of bone, and then proceeded to initiate his companions into the mysteries of an old buccanier dish, known as *carne cum cuero*, or meat roasted with the skin on. The result proved to be as superior to ordinary roasting as venison is to ordinary mutton.

A large circular piece was taken out of the back, and this was placed upon the embers with the hide downwards and in the form of a saucer, so that not one single drop of the gravy was lost. As my father quaintly observed, "if any worthy alderman had supped with them that evening, *carne cum cuero* would soon have been a celebrated dish in London."

Even allowing for the excellent appetite which exercise in the open air always gives, it is a fact patent to all hunters that the dishes made by experienced trappers and great Nimrods of the desert, are far superior to any which the utmost stretch of a professed cook's imagination could invent or carry out.

They supped with great glee, especially as, while waiting for his supper, my father, with his keen eye, made a remarkable discovery. He noticed while strolling about, a plant about four feet high, the leaves of which seemed familiar to him. He pulled them up, and, as he expected, found that to the root were attached some small tubers, the very largest of which were of an oval shape and two inches in diameter. They were potatoes. There was no occasion to be at all doubtful on the matter, as the very smell was enough. But on being roasted in the embers, they proved watery and insipid, but without bitterness. Still the discovery was important, as doubtless, with cultivation and manure, they would produce numerous potatoes and much larger.

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JIM BLUDSO,
(OF THE PRAIRIE BELLE.)

Well, no! I can't tell whar he lives,
Because he don't live, you see;
Leastways, he's got out of the habit
Of livin' like you and me.
Whar hav you been for the last three year
That you haven't heard folks tell
How Jimmy Bludso passed in his checks,
The night of the Prairie Belle?

He weren't no saint—them engineers
Is all pretty much alike—
One wife in Natchez under the Hill
And another one here, in Pike.
A keesless man in his talk was Jim,
And an awker, I said sure now—
But he never flanked, and he never lied,
I reckon he never knowed how.

And this was all the religion he had—
To treat his engine well;
Never be passed on the river;
To mind the Pilot's bell;
And if ever the Prairie Belle took fire—
A thousand times he swore:
He'd hold her nozzle ag'in the bank
Till the last soul got ashore.

All boats has their day on the Mississip,
And her day come at last—
The Movastat was better heat,
But the Belle she wouldn't be passed,
And so she come tearin' along that night—
The oldest craft on the line.
With a nigger saunt on her safety valve
And her furnace crammed, rosin and pine.

The fire bu'nt out as she clared the bar,
And burnt a hole in the night,
And quick as a flash she turned, and made
For that willer-bank on the right.
There was running and cursing, but Jim
Jelled out,
Over all the infernal roar,
"I'll hold her nozzle ag'in the bank
Till the last galoot's ashore."

Through the hot, black breath of the burnin'
boat,
Jim Bludso's voice was heard,
And they all had trust in his eesness,
And knowed he would keep his word.
And, sure's your soon, they all got off
Afore the smoke-stacks fell.
And Bludso's ghost went up alone
In the smoke of the Prairie Belle.

He weren't no saint—but at judgment
I'd run my cane with Jim,
'Longside of some pious gentlemen
That wouldn't shook hands with him.
He seen his duty, I said sure thing—
And went for it thar and then?
And Christ ain't a-goin' to be too hard
On a man that died for men.

A Stroke in the Dark.

A SKETCH OF CAPE COD.

BY ROGER STARBUCK.

Among the rough fishermen of Cape Cod, the pretty orphan, Ruth Band, grew up as bright, blooming and healthy as the sea-breeze and a life of useful exercise could make her. Her uncle's cabin was a model of neatness and comfort. All day long the voice of Ruth might have been heard chanting her native songs, while she attended to her household duties, as blithe and happy as a bird.

Spy-glass in hand, the young fishermen, when far at sea, often endeavored to get a glimpse of her pretty form as she flitted about the cabin; for she was an object of admiration to all the Cape Cod swains in the neighborhood.

She was well worth admiring. Her form, of the average height, was molded to rounded proportions, while the exquisite curve of the waist and slope of the shoulders was unrivaled. Clear blue eyes, chestnut hair, rich color, white, even teeth, a merry, ringing laugh, and a melodious voice, added to the attractions of her matchless figure. While capable of rowing a boat, or even of commanding her father's craft, had occasion required, yet Ruth was the most intelligent of all the young women along the cape coast, she being an excellent reader, a good writer, and fond of music and poetry.

Among her many rough suitors, not one of whom received from her the slightest encouragement, were two brothers—Richard and Benjamin White.

"Now jist you see here, my purty girl," Richard would say, "you marry me, and with them there eyes o' your'n to cheer, I'll make sich hauls o' fish as was never made afore, and we'll git rich for sartin."

Ruth, however, loved neither of the brothers, and frankly told them so. This angered Benjamin, who was a dark, passionate man, and made Rose tremble by declaring that, if she did not have him, he would do something desperate.

One day a young artist appeared among the Cape Cod people. He was a fine-looking fellow, with frank, easy manners, which pleased Ruth. On his part he seemed to take a liking to her at once.

"I came here," said he, "to make sketches for an illustrated newspaper, but had no idea that I should take with me from hence such a pretty picture as yours. You will let me sketch your portrait?"

"Oh, yes, sir," answered Ruth, blushing, and much pleased.

The artist was struck by the unusual intelligence of the fisher's girl. He found himself more pleased with her every day. Finally she took such hold of his heart that he actually had thoughts of making her his wife.

Her partiality for him made him enemies among the young fishermen. They set the girl's uncle against him, declaring that they knew he was a mere city libertine, with all his fine airs, and would bring ruin upon Ruth.

Then, through the great green spectacles, which, owing to a defect of eyesight, he had worn since early manhood, the eyes of Simon Band flashed fire.

"Odds codfish!" he roared, "that infernal lubber shall never hook my brother's darter!"

He told the artist, Henry Warren, to keep away from his cabin, in future. The young man obeyed, but had stolen meetings and interviews with the girl, who finally consented to run away with him.

Having persuaded her to this, Warren appointed rendezvous—a deserted cave near the sea-shore—where they were to meet in the evening, and thence depart, bound for New York.

With this agreement they separated, going in opposite directions.

A quarter of an hour after, Richard White emerged from behind some dwarfish shrubs, where he had remained a listener to what had passed.

"I'll talk 'em both!" he muttered, clenching his fist, "and at the same time git that gal for mine. I'll try hard, at any rate. Wonder whar brother Ben would say had he hearn what I have! He told me he'd have that chap's life afore he left these parts!"

This was true. Ben White, who was a desperate fellow, had sworn that he would take the life of that artist. It was not jealousy alone that inspired him with such hate against Henry, but the idea that the

stranger really intended harm to Ruth—meant to deceive her.

Now it so happened that on the night agreed upon for the meeting between Ruth and Henry, Ben sat, sullen and dejected, by a rock near the very cave appointed for the lovers' rendezvous.

Suddenly, hearing a stealthy step, he glanced up, to behold a tall figure pass him. The man's back was to him, so that Ben had a chance to watch his every movement unobserved. He saw him pass through the rough door, leading into the cave, then heard his voice, as he muttered something to himself.

"Now," thought Ben, "I might easily kill the scoundrel, and rid the place of such a pest!"

With these words, he laid a hand upon the instrument he carried at his side—a sort of short sword, used for cutting the fish he caught at sea.

He drew near the cave, then paused. Desperate as he was, he shuddered at the idea of taking the life of a fellow-creature. "Ruth! Ruth! is that you? Have you come?" was uttered, in a loud whisper, from within.

These words sealed the man's fate. Blinded, enraged by this discovery, showing that a secret meeting between the artist and the girl was intended, Ben lost all control of himself, and, springing into the cave, with a scream like a hyena's, he drove his sword to the hilt through the side of the speaker, who sunk back, with a shriek of agony.

The cabins of some of the fishers were not far distant. Those wild cries being heard, several rushed forth—one man provided with a light—among them Ruth's uncle. The groans of the dying one led them to the cave, when an appalling spectacle met their sight. Prone upon his back, weltering in his blood, lay Ben's brother, Richard White.

By the bright candle-light, Ben, who had remained in the cave, now discovered the mistake he had made, and fell, face downward, upon the prostrate form, shrieking, wildly:

"I HAVE KILLED MY OWN BROTHER!"

The dying man lived long enough to explain. After overhearing the secret plans of the lovers, he had lain in wait for Warren, had pounced upon him unawares, at night, knocked him senseless, and repaired to the cave, intending to play Ruth a trick which would baffle her and her lover's design.

There is little to add.



A STROKE IN THE DARK.

Benjamin White went crazy, and was put in a lunatic asylum.

Henry Warren, who had only been stunned by the blow received, succeeded, finally, in convincing Simon that his intentions to Ruth were honorable, and that he would marry her then and there. Softened in time by the pleadings of his niece, old Simon consented, and the twain were made one within sight of the white-crested waves of the Atlantic.

Henry took his bride to New York, where they still reside, a contented couple.

Camp-Fire Yarns.

Old Grizzly Adams and his
"Painter"-Trap.

BY RALPH KINGWOOD.

"RALPH, my boy," said old Grizzly Adams one morning, "I'm a-goin' fur thet painter as we heerd squallin' last night, an' ef'ee wants sum fun, jess git on yer traps an' come 'long w' me. No, one's anuff," he continued, in reply to half a dozen requests to be allowed to accompany the expedition.

It may readily be imagined that I eagerly accepted the invitation, for we all knew that when the scout promised "fun," it was certain to be had.

During the previous night, we had repeatedly heard the peculiar, child-like cry of a panther from a piece of heavy timber that skirted the river some little distance off. About midnight Old Grizzly had got up, and taking his rifle and a light ax, left the camp, remaining away something like two hours or more. When he returned, he laid down without offering any explanation, and was soon sleeping heavily.

"I hev sot a bait fur the varmint," said the old hunter, as we walked rapidly across the prairie in the direction of the river, "an' I thinks we'll fetch him out afore the sun's a hour higher. Do 'ee recollect thet bufler-bull Rube killed up yander, day afore yesterday?"

"You mean the one we left on the sand-bar?" I asked, alluding to a huge old bull that had been shot while crossing the stream, and which we found too tough to eat.

"Sartin. Well, thet karkidge ar' kinder high-flavored by this time, an' a painter, er enny other beast, 'll go fur it a mile off,

Last night I went up thar, an' sot the bull afoot, an' ketch'd him ag'in jess yander by thet dead white oak, an' roped him fast to a snag out in the stream. We'll find the varmint nosin' 'bout thar afore long, an' then we've got 'er go fur him."

In twenty minutes we were at the foot of the dead live oak, and here I halted a moment while Grizzly crept forward through the bushes to take a look at his trap.

Hardly had the old fellow disappeared from sight, before my ears were saluted by a perfect volley of oaths, fierce and bitter. Breaking through the chapparal, I found him standing upon the bank, gazing out into the stream with a look of comical amazement and anger blended.

The carcass of the buffalo was nowhere to be seen; only the huge jagged snag to which it had been moored.

"Well, darn my old moccasins, ef thet don't beat—! Why, the cussed thing must 'a' gnawed thet lariat! Come, lad, we ar' bound to make meat outen thet painter of I hev to follow him to thet Colorado," and off he started down the stream at a rate that put me to a "dog-trot."

At the third bend below our starting-place, we caught sight of the floating carcass. There was something in its appearance that seemed to puzzle the scout, for more than once he halted, and, shading his eyes with his broad palm, gazed long and intently at the receding object.

At the third or fourth inspection he solved the mystery.

"The painter, lad! the painter!" he suddenly exclaimed. "Thar onto the bufler, afloatin' an' stufin' hiself ef the same time! Now, then, quick! You cross hyar—ther yander neck, ye'll kim out 'way b'low the creetur. Do 'ee un'erstan'?"

I did, and plunging at once into the water, I made my way over, while the scout dashed off down the bank at a pace that would soon bring him up with the game. Crossing the narrow neck of land made by the sudden bend in the stream, I soon arrived at the desired position, and at once selected a suitable hiding-place, from whence I had an unobstructed view of the river, and from whence I could shoot with accuracy. Two hundred yards above me lay the bend, and here I fixed my eyes, waiting for the floating trap to come in sight. This it did in less than ten minutes, and I then had a clear view of the animal whom we were going to attack.

thing where it was by pulling it further up on the submerged bar, so as to prevent it again floating off.

I was intently watching the old scout's movements, when something, I knew not what, caused me to raise my eyes to the limb of the tree that projected out into the stream directly over where Grizzly stood.

The sight I there beheld nearly took my breath. Crouched upon the limb, with his hind feet gathered under the body, ready for the spring, lay the panther, his long tail lashing his sides, and the great, glaring, blood-shot eyes fastened savagely on the hunter.

I had only time to shout a word of warning, to throw my rifle forward and fire without aim in hopes of diverting the brute's attention, when the leap was made.

But, short as was the time allowed him, the scout made good use of it, and, although he knew not from what direction the blow would fall, he nevertheless took the only chance, and suddenly fell forward upon the body of the buffalo. He was in time to avoid the full force of the shock, but not so to miss it altogether. As the panther shot over him, it made a sweeping blow with its powerful paw, the nails catching in the tough buck-skin collar of the hunting-shirt, and hurling the scout headforemost, clear over the carcass into the deep water beyond.

A quick flurry, and then the two combatants grappled for the death-struggle.

At such a moment an ordinary man would inevitably have lost his presence of mind, but Grizzly Adams was not an ordinary man, and he did not lose his head.

Even as he went forward, under the influence of that powerful blow, he drew his long blade from its sheath, and, as his left hand closed upon the beast's throat, the right plied the knife with deadly effect.

I stood helpless, spell-bound, upon the further bank, gazing, with bated breath, upon the terrible scene.

Half a dozen times had the keen blade sought the enraged animal's vitals, and then, as though changing his tactics, the scout shook himself free, and suddenly dived.

For an instant the panther looked round, evidently bewildered at this abrupt disappearance, and then started for the bank, swimming slowly. The brute had scarcely gotten under headway, when I saw it as suddenly disappear beneath the surface as the scout had done.

The time seemed interminable, and I be-

BLOWING BUBBLES.

BY JOE JOY, JR.

Ah, Evaline, from book and pen
I've down to rest my troubles,
And here I find you by yourself,
Engaged in blowing bubbles!

With that old pipe of Tom's! Well, well,
That you should go and take it!
Be careful of that bubble now,
Your nose will touch and break it.

Who would have thought such wondrous
things
That run pipe from the potter
Could do, with aid of fairy lips,
And common soap and water!

The bubble, how it floats aloft!
With golden colors gilded!
As fair a fabric in the air
As youthful dream or bird builded.

And filled with breath as sweet as that
Which goes in prayer to Heaven—
It floats toward the gable. There,
It touches and is risen!

Oh, Evaline, the wasted breath
That filled that golden bubble
Upon your lips had formed a word
That well could aid my trouble.

One little word I long to hear,
A sweetly-spoken sentence,
But you hear nothing that I say,
You're blowing up a new one.

It slowly grows above the bowl,
But oh, your cheek is fuller,
With tenderest color overspread,
The bubble's tint is duller.

If I might kiss the crimson cheek
Which fills to fill the bubble,
If I might kiss it only once,
I then should lose my trouble.

So let for once my trouble break
On that fair reel of coral;
'Twere well that from your sport and mirth
My love should draw a moral.

Yet, maybe, if that cheek were touched
'Twould shatter like the bubble.
I kiss it—and you scratch my nose
For all my love and trouble!

Beat Time's Notes.

As the lecture season has set in with unusual severity, I beg to announce that I am open to engagements. My new lecture is entitled "Soft-soap," and, of course, it is smooth, and embodies all the poetry naturally suggested by that useful article of domestic economy. It will please the old and tickle the young; it is good for dyspepsia, but it is extremely hard on buttons, and has been known to set two old enemies to laughing so hard that they split their differences. It gives the only true, unvarnished history of man, from the cradle to the grave, and back by the same road. It reviews markets, and the troops, and is altogether the best thing that was never put up in small bottles.

It is designed expressly for delivery before societies, high or low, sewing-circles, camp-meetings, horse-races, insular societies, States' prisons, railroad-boards and corn-husings. Here is an extract from the *Tribune*:

"Beat Time gave his piece at Steinway Hall last night. It was very highly spoken of. There wasn't a dry mouth in the audience, and it was as much as people could do to keep from laughing right out in church. The audience got the full benefit of the title."

I would say to all societies in need of "soft soap," that my terms are eighty dollars for one application, or twenty cents a dozen. People who won't laugh will not be admitted, nor old maids in arms, nor poodle pups. All communications should be addressed to Mr. Whitehorn, who, since he has received word which relieves him from the responsibility of expecting the Spanish throne, has gladly consented to act as my agent. All arrangements he makes I will fulfill except those which come under the head of borrowed money. Write early and often.

BEAT TIME, Esq.—Some time since I received word from a firm in New York, offering to send me two hundred and fifty dollars in good counterfeit money for twenty-five dollars in advance. Seeing I could do something for the benefit of my family, I sent the good money, and, as I have heard nothing from it, I thought to ask your advice about it. I, as a deacon of the church, and a consistent member of society, want to know if such rascality is allowed to exist in the great city of New York. I have written to them repeatedly since and begged them to only return the money I sent; but they won't do that. They are rogues. I pronounce them to be swindlers of the deepest dye, and I caution all honest men to have nothing to do with them. Now, don't you think I had better bring suit and recover my money? Will you give me your opinion of it? I would advise you to punish them to the fullest extent. Such conduct certainly is outrageous; the rights of all honest men must be protected in this country.

I HAVE the most economical plug hat that ever was. It takes less wind to blow it off than any other hat in the world. The peculiarity of it is that it never blows off only when I am passing a lady on the street with the stately step for which I am so distinguished. When it don't blow clear off at such a period, it starts, and my hand has to fly to the hat, thereby making the lady, whom I do not know, believe I am excessively polite. That hat is a great bother to the vehicles on Broadway, and drivers are constantly on the look-out for it. It has got so used to rolling that when I set it on the table and put a brick in it, it rolls off on the floor—rolls down-stairs and up-stairs—in fact, it rolls everywhere, except into the fire. It is on the account of that hat that the hair has receded from my head. That hat will surely be the death of me yet. Does anybody know anybody else who is in need of a hat? If you do, tell him to bring a cage and take this one away at my expense.

I ONCE invented a shaving machine to go by horse-power. When it was completed I sat six men in the chairs, adjusted the belt and drove in. It was the cleanest shave that any one ever got. While it worked well enough, those men were obliged to complain very much of the loss of ears, noses and eyebrows. People got to looking on it with disfavor, and I was obliged to turn it into a sausage-cutter.

A MARBLE man, following after other advertisements, publishes this card: "As the holidays are approaching, and the time for presents is nearing, I beg to call attention to my stock of tombstones. Persons about to need them would do well to call. Fits warranted in all cases."

If a— But I have forgotten what that joke was. BEAT TIME.

RANDOM NOTES.

"THE man received a dozen stabs, many of which will prove fatal."—*Exchange*. I wish that editor had informed us the exact number of times the man is expected to die.

THE novelist who said the heroine wore a look of gladness neglected to say if her shoes were made of the same material.

TEACHER.—James, spell good.

JAMES.—G-o-o-d.

TEACHER.—Tut, tut, that's bad.

WELL, some one tell me what is the best calico to make an ape run (apron)?

An airy covering—a sheet of wind. For summer wear a mantle of snow.

A vessel's speed at sea is ascertained by logical means.

No man is better than a woman, but a woman is better than no man.

It matters little nowadays how big a thief a man is, so he is honest.

Be thrifty, but not spendthriftly.

A crow is a cau-tious bird.

LOVE thyself as thy neighbor.
JOE KING.